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No. 129

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

Chaplain Scott Crosley, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Kentucky, offered the following prayer:

Dear Lord, today we pray for productivity, for purpose and for passion. We ask, Lord, for Your encouragement for those who need it, for Your direction for those who need it, and for Your discernment for those who need it.

Your word promises that "he who stands firm to the end will be saved." Today, I pray for the leaders in this room, that You, Lord, would help them to stand firm in You. Help their dependence to be upon You and their persuasion to reflect You.

As it reads in Ephesians, chapter 3: "I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His spirit in your inner being."

It is in His name that I pray Rakkasan and Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING CHAPLAIN SCOTT CROSLY

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Chaplain Scott Crosley of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) for delivering today's opening prayer. Chaplain Crosley serves as the battalion chaplain for the First Battalion 187th Infantry Regiment, the "Leader Rakkasans."

These soldiers only recently returned to Fort Campbell from Iraq. While they were deployed in Iraq, I had the opportunity to visit them at forward-operating base Summerall. The Leader Rakkasans engaged in close combat with insurgent and terrorist enemies. They worked to train Iraqi army and police units, and they continued the work of building Iraqi civil society to offer a better future to the next generation of Iraqis.

Chaplain Crosley came to the Army late in life, moving his family from his native California and heeding a call to tend to the spiritual and emotional needs of soldiers at war.

In this time of deployment, his efforts helped soldiers deal with the stress of combat, separation from their loved ones and, above all, the loss of nine brother warriors in action.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Chaplain Crosley and the soldiers of the 101st Airborne for their great service to our great Nation.

END THE WAR IN IRAQ

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, one week ago, the American people sent a message to this Congress; that message had to do with Iraq. Were the American people asking us to send more troops? No, they want the troops to come home. Were they looking to expand the war? No, they want to end the war.

There is only one way to end this war: cut off funds. The White House

doesn't believe Congress will exercise this power. That is why the President is determined to stay in Iraq through the end of his term. He may have let go of Rumsfeld, but he is not going to let go of the war. The President is trapped, trapped by lies, fabricated intelligence, pretensions to empire, desire for oil and prophetic illusions.

The truth shall set the President and the Congress free; the truth that it was wrong to go into Iraq. It is wrong to stay there. It is time to bring our troops home. It is time to get the world community involved in a transition to help secure the Iraqi people. The truth is we broke Iraq, but we can't fix it by staying. We can fix it only by admitting we were wrong and paying for reconstruction financially but not with the lives of our brave troops.

It is time to cut off the funds; time to end the war against Iraq; time to bring our troops home; time for a new energy policy; time to reconnect with the world; time for hope, not fear.

WHY THANKSGIVING DAY?

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, in 1621, the Pilgrims held a 3-day festival giving thanks to the Lord for a bountiful harvest. They celebrated with the Indians, who had also suffered through a previously hard winter. This feast would become the birth of our national holiday of Thanksgiving.

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt made the fourth Thursday of November the official Thanksgiving day, which we celebrate Thursday next. For the first 150 years, Thanksgiving was celebrated whenever the Colonists believed it was necessary to do so. President George Washington stated in the first Thanksgiving proclamation authorized by Congress in 1789: "It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to be grateful

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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for His benefits and to request His protection and favor. I recommend to the people of the United States a day of public Thanksgiving and prayer to show the many favors of the Almighty and especially the opportunity for this form of government.”

So as this Nation, Mr. Speaker, seems to move toward a secular country, we would do well to remember the purpose of Thanksgiving and the words of the Good Book, which says: “Unless the Lord watches over the city, those that guard the walls do so in vain.”

And that’s just the way it is.

DEMOCRATS DESIRE TO BETTER SECURE THE HOMELAND

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, no issue that Congress deals with is more important than our national security. As Democrats prepare to take control of the Congress this January, we are ready to move forward with an agenda that I believe will better secure our homeland and help us finally to restore our credibility abroad.

Today our Nation is actually less safe than it was before the 9/11 terrorist attacks. According to our most professional experienced intelligence analysts, the number of terrorist attacks and recruits are up worldwide. Many of our enemies are stronger. Their reach is greater. Their weapons of mass destruction are more developed, plentiful and available.

Democrats have an agenda for real security at home and overseas. It is time that we require the Iraqis to take responsibility for their country, and to begin the phased redeployment of U.S. forces out of Iraq. At the same time, we Democrats believe that we need to double the size of Special Forces to destroy Osama bin Laden and terrorists networks like al-Qaeda, we need to rebuild a state-of-the-art military capable of projecting power wherever necessary. That is an agenda that will better protect our Nation and is worthy of strong bipartisan support.

THE THREAT OF IRAN

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address a growing threat to the United States and global security: Iran’s nuclear ambitions pose a grave threat, not only to world stability but also to our close ally, Israel, the only stable democracy in the Middle East, and American interests of peace and prosperity throughout the region.

Just yesterday the Associated Press confirmed that Iran has continued its experiments to enrich uranium in defiance of the U.N. Security Council.

Led by a tyrannical dictator who denies the existence of the Holocaust and vows to wipe Israel off the map, the

President of Iran is out of touch with reality and poses an immediate security threat to its neighbors and the progress of democracy in the Middle East.

We must stand firm and united in our resolve to prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear state. President Ahmadinejad seems bent on the destruction of Western civilization. He says Iran will never give up its right to enrich uranium and produce nuclear fuel. The consequences of a nuclear Iran would be catastrophic and must be addressed.

Mr. Speaker, our commitment to our allies and for peace in the Middle East must not be shaken by Iran’s nuclear weapons ambitions. I urge my colleagues to work together to stand in unity against this gathering threat.

RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, the minimum wage, as you know, has not been raised in the last 9 years and is currently at its lowest level in the last 50 years when adjusted for inflation. Yet Republicans have continually refused to raise the pay of these full-time workers who struggle to make ends meet.

During the last 6 years, by the way, 5 million people now live in poverty. Last week the American people spoke out for the Democratic majority in Congress, because they agreed that no one in the Nation who works hard should be denied a livable wage. In fact, over 70 percent of Latinos work at minimum wage to support their children.

These are hardworking Americans, and they deserve better treatment and fairness. Now the American people have spoken and call for immediate action to raise the minimum wage. Within the first 100 hours of the Congress, Democrats will pass a pay increase for those workers who need it the most. It is only fair. How can we as a Nation justify giving millionaires tens of thousands of dollars in tax breaks while we continue to force more than 6 million Americans to live with just \$5.15 an hour?

Mr. Speaker, thanks to the election results, we will see a much-needed raise in the minimum wage for all Americans.

A LITTLE SCHOOL WITH A BIG HEART

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last Friday in Saluda, South Carolina, 400 elementary school students gathered at a football field while a military helicopter landed in the middle.

Why such a big treat for such a small school, you may wonder? Hollywood

Elementary teacher Anna Frye learned of the Flags For Soldiers Project, headed by Alpha Troop Commander Captain Jason D. Hennigan, and wanted to involve her students.

The project is to raise money to purchase 500 American flags, one for each soldier serving in a Cavalry Squadron of the 82nd Airborne Division. During the past several weeks, these students donated their snack money and paid a fee to participate in dress-up days so they could contribute to this cause.

Captain Hennigan’s father, Daniel Hennigan, a retired Army officer, was so touched by the school’s gesture that he arranged a special celebration on Veterans Day. As American soldiers continue to fight for our freedoms around the world, we can all learn a lesson from the students at Hollywood Elementary.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

AMERICAN PEOPLE SUPPORT DEMOCRATIC AGENDA

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last week the American people voted for change here in Washington. They were not happy with the party controlling both Capitol Hill and the White House. They want checks and balances, but more than anything, they want us to work together to address the concerns they face every day.

The agenda that Democrats laid out over the last year is an agenda that all of us here in Washington should be able to support. If you want to help millions of hardworking Americans who have not received a pay raise in 9 years, you will join us in increasing the minimum raise in January. If you want to help more teenagers get a college education, you will join us in making it more affordable by cutting interest rates in half on college loans.

This is the agenda that the American people supported last week when they went to the polls. In January, we will begin to implement this agenda, and I hope that our Republican colleagues will join us in this effort.

COLLEGE LOAN INTEREST RATE CUTS

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, last Tuesday, Americans voted for a new direction in America. Among those voting were 10 million young Americans between the ages of 18 and 29 who were no doubt upset by the soaring costs of college tuition and the rise in student loan interest rates put into effect by Republicans in this body.

This year alone Republicans raised student loan interest rates by 7 percent and cut \$12 billion out of the higher

education budget to pay for the massive tax cuts for the wealthy. These 10 million young voters, along with their parents and grandparents who share the growing financial burden of higher education, elected a Democratic majority in Congress because they know our party has continually stood for making a college education an affordable goal for all American students.

Mr. Speaker, these families will soon see results. Within the first 100 hours of taking office next January, Democrats will broaden college opportunities for all students.

□ 1015

AMERICANS WANT A CHANGE IN STRATEGY IN IRAQ

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, last week the American people voiced their strong opposition to the handling of the war in Iraq. On the day after the election, it appeared that President Bush had finally gotten the message when he removed Secretary Rumsfeld, the man who bears a great deal of responsibility for the failed Iraq policy. However, there is now some doubt whether the President fully comprehended the magnitude of the quagmire his administration created and continues to defend.

The situation in Iraq is getting worse, not better. October was the deadliest month for American troops in over 2 years, and they continue to play referee in a civil war between the Sunnis and the Shiites.

It is clear after last week's election that the American people want a change in strategy. It is time for the Iraqi people to take control of their country and to stop the sectarian violence that has made it impossible to bring stability to that nation. American troops cannot do it for them. They have got to do it for themselves.

Therefore, it is time to begin redeploying our troops out of Iraq so that we can better protect our Nation. The President's own intelligence agencies say the war in Iraq is making us less safe.

When Democrats take control of Congress next year, we will advocate for a phased redeployment so we can better protect the homeland from terrorist attacks.

DEMOCRATS WILL HIT THE ROAD RUNNING WITH AN AGENDA FOR ALL AMERICANS

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, when Democrats take over the House in January, we are going to hit the road running, moving forward on an agenda that every American should be able to embrace.

Within the first 100 hours, Democrats pledge to bring legislation to the House floor that would increase the minimum wage from \$5.15 an hour to \$7.25 an hour to more than 6 million American workers.

We will also give the Secretary of Health and Human Services the ability to negotiate lower drug prices, something that the Republican drug law specifically prohibited.

We will also repeal billions in tax breaks for big oil companies, companies that experienced record profits this summer while they were gouging the American consumer.

Democrats also plan to help college students with skyrocketing college costs by cutting their student loan interest payments in half, something that could save future graduates about \$5,000 over the lifetime of the loan.

All of this, plus fully implementing the 9/11 Commission's recommendations, and we will do that all in the first 100 hours.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

FRANNIE, WYOMING, LAND CONVEYANCE

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 101) to convey to the town of Frannie, Wyoming, certain land withdrawn by the Commissioner of Reclamation.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 101

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CONVEYANCE OF LAND TO THE TOWN OF FRANNIE, WYOMING.

(a) CONVEYANCE.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary of the Interior shall convey by quitclaim deed, without consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the parcel of land described in subsection (b) to the town of Frannie, Wyoming.

(b) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The parcel of land referred to in subsection (a) is the parcel of land withdrawn by the Commissioner of Reclamation—

(1) consisting of approximately 37,500 square feet;

(2) located in the town of Frannie, Wyoming; and

(3) more particularly described in the approved Plat of Survey of Frannie Townsite, Wyoming, as the North ½ of Block 26, T. 58 N., R. 97 W.

(c) RESERVATION OF MINERAL RIGHTS.—The conveyance under subsection (a) shall be subject to the reservation by the United States of any oil and gas rights.

(d) REVOCATIONS.—

(1) SPECIAL USE PERMIT.—The special use permit issued by the Commissioner of Reclamation, numbered O-LM-60-L1413, and dated April 20, 1990, is revoked with respect to the land described in subsection (b).

(2) SECRETARIAL ORDERS.—The following Secretarial Orders issued by the Commissioner of Reclamation are revoked with respect to the land described in subsection (b):

(A) The Secretarial Order for the withdrawal of land for the Shoshone Reclamation Project dated October 21, 1913, as amended.

(B) The Secretarial Order for the withdrawal of land for the Frannie Townsite Reservation dated April 19, 1920.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. DRAKE) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia.

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

S. 101, introduced by Senator MIKE ENZI, and supported by our Wyoming colleague, BARBARA CUBIN, authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to convey a parcel of land to the town of Frannie, Wyoming. The land in question is less than 1 acre and equates to approximately half a city block.

The Bureau of Reclamation has not used this land for many years, and the town has actually managed it for the last 15 years. As the land is no longer needed for reclamation projects, the town would like to use this land to build a community center.

The Department of the Interior has testified in support of this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support this noncontroversial bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. RAHALL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, the purpose of S. 101 is to convey a small parcel of Federal land to the town of Frannie, Wyoming.

While we do not object to passage of S. 101, we do want to ensure that we address concerns raised at the December 7, 2005, hearing of the Subcommittee on Water and Power regarding the intent of Congress with respect to the ownership of this parcel and the purpose for which it will be used.

Mr. Speaker, I will include in the RECORD at this point two letters received from the town of Frannie by Water and Power Subcommittee Ranking Member GRACE NAPOLITANO.

TOWN OF FRANNIE,

Frannie, WY, December 15, 2005.

Hon. GRACE NAPOLITANO,
Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE NAPOLITANO: It has come to our attention that there were concerns expressed over the Town of Frannie gaining ownership of federal lands in Frannie Wyoming and then immediately disposing of them. As a smaller governmental entity, we fully understand the concerns on this issue.

One of the unique features in the Town of Frannie is on the NE¼ of Block 26. The Town

of Frannie holds a Bureau of Reclamation 99-year Special Use Permit for our Centennial (Lasting Legacy) Park. In 1990, as a project to commemorate a "Lasting Legacy" of Wyoming's centennial year, the Frannie Elementary students, with community support and help, built this park. The park is a topographical representation of Wyoming with rocks depicting mountain ranges and the pathways are the two main thoroughfares across the state. This children's park holds a special place in the hearts of many of our community members.

Past and present Town Council members have been discussing the use for the NW¼ of Block 26. The need for a large group picnic shelter, a community hall, and a maintenance shop are a few ideas that the councils were considering. Before we can commit to developing these lots for public use, we will first need to gain ownership.

It is our desire to have this land remain open for public use since it is adjacent to our town hall, basketball court, and library. We feel that we would be better managers and protectors of these lots if they were under our care. On July 19, 2000, the Wyoming State Director of the Bureau of Land Management, stated in a letter to the Bureau of Reclamation, "Since BLM feels the parcel is not suitable for return to the public domain and management under the public land and mining laws, and the land is no longer needed for BR purposes, it is recommended a means of disposal of this parcel be sought whereby the Town of Frannie can protect its investment."

We understand the concern with the Town of Frannie turning around and selling the North½ of Block 26. Although we cannot guarantee what future council members' goals and values will be, you can rest assured that the present council and many of our community members desire that this entire block remain intact for the public's use.

We sincerely hope that you will give us your support of S. 101.

Sincerely,

JERRY DART,
Mayor.

TOWN OF FRANNIE
Frannie, WY, July 14, 2006.

Hon. GRACE NAPOLITANO,
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Water and Power, House Committee on Resources, Washington, DC.

DEAR RANKING MEMBER NAPOLITANO: Thank you for your interest in S. 101, a bill to convey land to the Town of Frannie, and for your continued interest in good government. As a local government official, I have a great respect for your desire to see lands conveyed to our town used in a manner that is in the public interest.

I write you today to make clear that the Town of Frannie has no intention of selling the land that the federal government would convey to us if S. 101 is signed into law. It is my understanding that a letter sent by our previous mayor did not clarify what our intention is for that land, and so I hope to ease your concerns that the town may attempt to sell this land in the future. That is not our goal, and we have no desire to sell the land to private individuals.

Half of the land owned by the Bureau of Reclamation holds a portion of the town's Centennial Park. It is our intention to keep that park in place. The Other half of the land contains an American Legion building that is condemned. It is our intention to tear that building down, and it is our dream to build a community center on that land.

We expect the community center to be a place where townspeople can meet for dinners, meetings and other community events because our community does not have such a

gathering facility. Although it is our dream to make this happen, we do not yet want to begin the process of raising the funds if we do not own the land. Although we enjoy our relationship with Bureau of Reclamation, we do not feel comfortable investing what we believe to be substantial dollars if we do not own the land.

Because the federal government no longer uses the land and because the cost of selling the land is more than the value of the land, we believe S. 101 is a win-win situation for our community and for the taxpayers. It is my hope that you will support passage of S. 101 so that we can begin moving forward with our dream to build It community center that will undoubtedly make Frannie a better place for all its citizens.

Sincerely,

MIRIAM ROBERTS,
Mayor, Town of Frannie.

The letters clearly state that it is the intent of the town government that this parcel permanently remain in public ownership and that the land continue to be used as it is presently, that is, for public purposes. We appreciate these assurances by the town of Frannie.

In addition to these assurances, Mr. Speaker, the Secretary of the Interior, in executing the transfer of real property authorized by this act, shall include in the deed or deeds a restriction requiring that the lands remain in public ownership by the town of Frannie and used solely and in perpetuity for public purposes.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. DRAKE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 101.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NEW ENGLAND WILDERNESS ACT OF 2006

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 4001) to designate certain land in New England as wilderness for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System and certain land as a National Recreation Area, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 4001

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "New England Wilderness Act of 2006".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Section 1. Short title; table of contents
Sec. 2. Definition of Secretary

TITLE I—NEW HAMPSHIRE

Sec. 101. Definition of State

Sec. 102. Designation of wilderness areas
Sec. 103. Map and description
Sec. 104. Administration

TITLE II—VERMONT

Sec. 201. Definitions
Subtitle A—Designation of Wilderness Areas
Sec. 211. Designation
Sec. 212. Map and description
Sec. 213. Administration
Subtitle B—Moosalamoo National Recreation Area

Sec. 221. Designation
Sec. 222. Map and description
Sec. 223. Administration of National Recreation Area

SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF SECRETARY.

In this Act, the term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.

TITLE I—NEW HAMPSHIRE

SEC. 101. DEFINITION OF STATE.

In this title, the term "State" means the State of New Hampshire.

SEC. 102. DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS.

In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following Federal land in the State is designated as wilderness and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service, comprising approximately 23,700 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Proposed Wild River Wilderness—White Mountain National Forest", dated February 6, 2006, which shall be known as the "Wild River Wilderness".

(2) Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service, comprising approximately 10,800 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Proposed Sandwich Range Wilderness Additions—White Mountain National Forest", dated February 6, 2006, and which are incorporated in the Sandwich Range Wilderness, as designated by the New Hampshire Wilderness Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-323; 98 Stat. 259).

SEC. 103. MAP AND DESCRIPTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall file a map and a legal description of each wilderness area designated by section 102 with the committees of appropriate jurisdiction in the Senate and the House of Representatives.

(b) FORCE AND EFFECT.—A map and legal description filed under subsection (a) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the Secretary may correct clerical and typographical errors in the map and legal description.

(c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Each map and legal description filed under subsection (a) shall be filed and made available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service.

SEC. 104. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) ADMINISTRATION.—Subject to valid existing rights, each wilderness area designated under this title shall be administered by the Secretary in accordance with—

(1) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); and
(2) the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.).

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE OF WILDERNESS ACT.—With respect to any wilderness area designated by this title, any reference in the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) to the effective date of the Wilderness Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) FISH AND WILDLIFE.—As provided in section 4(d)(7) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(7)), nothing in this title affects any jurisdiction or responsibility of the State with respect to wildlife and fish in the State.

(d) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, all Federal land in the wilderness areas designated by section 102 are withdrawn from—

- (1) all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws;
- (2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and
- (3) disposition under the mineral leasing laws (including geothermal leasing laws).

TITLE II—VERMONT

SEC. 201. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—The term “Management Plan” means the Green Mountain National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

(2) **STATE.**—The term “State” means the State of Vermont.

Subtitle A—Designation of Wilderness Areas

SEC. 211. DESIGNATION.

In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following areas in the State are designated as wilderness areas and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) Certain Federal land managed by the United States Forest Service, comprising approximately 22,425 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Glastenbury Wilderness—Proposed”, dated September 2006, which shall be known as the “Glastenbury Wilderness”.

(2) Certain Federal land managed by the United States Forest Service, comprising approximately 12,333 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Joseph Battell Wilderness—Proposed”, dated September 2006, which shall be known as the “Joseph Battell Wilderness”.

(3) Certain Federal land managed by the United States Forest Service, comprising approximately 3,757 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Breadloaf Wilderness Additions—Proposed”, dated September 2006, which shall be known as the “Breadloaf Wilderness”.

(4) Certain Federal land managed by the United States Forest Service, comprising approximately 2,338 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Lye Brook Wilderness Additions—Proposed”, dated September 2006, which shall be known as the “Lye Brook Wilderness”.

(5) Certain Federal land managed by the United States Forest Service, comprising approximately 752 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Peru Peak Wilderness Additions—Proposed”, dated September 2006, which shall be known as the “Peru Peak Wilderness”.

(6) Certain Federal land managed by the United States Forest Service, comprising approximately 47 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Big Branch Wilderness Additions—Proposed”, dated September 2006, which shall be known as the “Big Branch Wilderness”.

SEC. 212. MAP AND DESCRIPTION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall file a map and a legal description of each wilderness area designated by section 211 with—

- (1) the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives;
- (2) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives; and
- (3) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

(b) **FORCE OF LAW.**—A map and legal description filed under subsection (a) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the Secretary may correct clerical and typographical errors in the map and legal description.

(c) **PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.**—Each map and legal description filed under subsection (a) shall be filed and made available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service.

SEC. 213. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) **ADMINISTRATION.**—Subject to valid rights in existence on the date of enactment of this Act, each wilderness area designated under this subtitle and in the Green Mountain National Forest (as of the date of enactment of this Act) shall be administered by the Secretary in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.).

(b) **FISH AND WILDLIFE.**—Nothing in this subtitle affects the jurisdiction of the State with respect to wildlife and fish on the public land located in the State, including the stocking of fish in rivers and streams in the State to support the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program.

(c) **TRAILS.**—The Forest Service shall allow the continuance of—

- (1) the Appalachian National Scenic Trail;
- (2) the Long Trail;
- (3) the Catamount Trail; and
- (4) the marking and maintenance of associated trails and trail structures of the Trails referred to in this subsection, consistent with the management direction (including objectives, standards, guidelines, and agreements with partners) established for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, Long Trail, and Catamount Trail under the Management Plan.

Subtitle B—Moosalamoo National Recreation Area

SEC. 221. DESIGNATION.

Certain Federal land managed by the United States Forest Service, comprising approximately 15,857 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Moosalamoo National Recreation Area—Proposed”, dated September 2006, is designated as the “Moosalamoo National Recreation Area”.

SEC. 222. MAP AND DESCRIPTION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall file a map and a legal description of the national recreation area designated by section 221 with—

- (1) the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives;
- (2) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives; and
- (3) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

(b) **FORCE OF LAW.**—A map and legal description filed under subsection (a) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this subtitle, except that the Secretary may correct clerical and typographical errors in the map and legal description.

(c) **PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.**—Each map and legal description filed under subsection (a) shall be filed and made available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service.

SEC. 223. ADMINISTRATION OF NATIONAL RECREATION AREA.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to valid rights existing on the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall administer the Moosalamoo National Recreation Area in accordance with—

- (1) laws (including rules and regulations) applicable to units of the National Forest System; and
- (2) the management direction (including objectives, standards, and guidelines) established for the Moosalamoo Recreation and Education Management Area under the Management Plan.

(b) **FISH AND WILDLIFE.**—Nothing in this subtitle affects the jurisdiction of the State with respect to wildlife and fish on the public land located in the State.

(c) **ESCARPMENT AND ECOLOGICAL AREAS.**—Nothing in this subtitle prevents the Secretary from managing the Green Mountain Escarpment Management Area and the Ecological Special Areas, as described in the Management Plan.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. DRAKE) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

S. 4001 would designate 34,500 acres of wilderness in the White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire and 41,652 acres of wilderness in the Green Mountain National Forest in Vermont.

The Resources Committee supports the wilderness designation in the White Mountain National Forest. This designation was developed with the Forest Service through its forest planning process and with substantial input and involvement from the public and local interest groups. It boasts the strong support of New Hampshire's citizens, environmental groups, the forest products industry, elected officials, the Forest Service and the administration.

With that said, the committee is somewhat troubled with the Vermont wilderness designation within S. 4001. The Forest Service's publicly vetted and collaborative forest plan recommends only 27,000 acres of wilderness. However, considering the few days remaining in this Congress and the support of this bill by the entire Vermont delegation, the Resources Committee will defer to Vermont's elected officials and pass the bill today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. RAHALL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I would simply note that this legislation, which would designate Federal wilderness areas on national forest system lands within the States of New Hampshire and Vermont, is before us in part due to the efforts of our colleague, Bernie Sanders, and for that, I commend the gentleman from Vermont for his dedication, persistence and willingness to work with us on this legislation. He will soon become a member of the other body, but we shall still maintain our friendship. I salute him for his tenacity in ensuring that his State's interests are included in this measure.

I would also observe that the wilderness designations made by the pending measure are clean, and by that, I refer to the fact that they are not coupled with other matters which have nothing to do with wilderness.

Wilderness standing on its own here, the benefits of wilderness designation to the local economy, to hunters and fishermen, and to our heritage and future generations of Americans, is on display for all to see.

It is not being coupled or being debated with other matters such as the disposal of public lands as the price of obtaining some wilderness designation as we have seen with a number of other bills considered by this body in recent months.

So I am pleased to support the measure.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BRADLEY).

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the leadership of the Resources Committee on both sides of the aisle, as well as the leadership on both sides of the aisle in the House, for allowing myself, Congressman BASS and Congressman SANDERS to have another opportunity to debate this bill today.

What we have before us is a compromise in true New England fashion, with both States' delegations and Governors of both States having worked together to bring before the House a consensus package that represents the best interests of my colleague's State of Vermont and the best interests of my State of New Hampshire.

As someone who is an avid hiker and someone who will have a little bit more time now to hike, I can attest to all Members of the House, this wilderness designation makes sense for New Hampshire. I have hiked in both regions of the proposed wilderness designation. They are worthy of this additional protection of wilderness designation.

In the case of New Hampshire, myself and Congressman BASS, Senator GREGG and Senator SUNUNU, the sponsors of this measure, have worked extensively with all sides that were interested in this legislation, both environmental groups, logging interests, snowmobiling groups to make sure that we had a plan that mirrored the interests of Tom Wagner, who is the administrator of the White Mountain National Forest, and his very capable group of people that proposed the White Mountain National Forest plan and the wilderness designation.

As a side note, the White Mountain National Forest plan, despite all the comments that came in after the plan was published, in particular comments about wilderness designation, was not challenged in court by any of the various interests, which is a tribute to how hard New Hampshire interests

worked on the compromise that you see before you today.

So, as somebody who has spent extensive time hiking in the White Mountain National Forest, including in these two proposed wilderness designations, the Sandwich designation, as well as the Wild River designation, I thank again my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for allowing this bill to come forward. I thank the leadership on both sides for allowing this bill to come forward. It is truly going to protect both the Green Mountain National Forest and the White Mountain National Forest, and I would welcome all of you to come join me in hiking in these two wilderness designations once they have been signed into law.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I now yield such time as he may consume to our distinguished colleague from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and again congratulate him on his ascension into the other body.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from West Virginia.

This has been a somewhat long and unusual path to get here to where we are today, and I want to thank the gentlewoman and I want to thank the committee for their support and I want to thank my colleagues, Mr. BRADLEY and Mr. BASS from New Hampshire, for their very hard work on this, and the New Hampshire delegation in the Senate and Senator LEAHY and Senator JEFFORDS for where we are today.

□ 1030

I rise, obviously, in very strong support of this legislation which would designate wilderness areas in both Vermont and New Hampshire. This legislation passed the Senate unanimously in September, and I hope this body will pass it today in similar fashion.

I should point out that the New England Wilderness Act not only has the unanimous support of the New Hampshire delegation and the Vermont delegation but the Governor of the State of Vermont and the Governor of the State of New Hampshire as well.

Mr. Speaker, the Green Mountain National Forest is integral to the State of Vermont. Established in 1932, the forest includes almost 400,000 acres stretching across two-thirds the length of the State. As you might imagine, the forest looms large on the minds of Vermonters. My constituents have high expectations about the stewardship of the resources within the forest, and the wilderness created in this bill is something almost all Vermonters eagerly await.

In fact, passage of the New England Wilderness Act would mark a successful culmination of on-the-ground efforts in both Vermont and New Hampshire. In Vermont, this has involved roughly 5 years of discussions as well as cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service as they worked to update the forest management plan which included a significant public process.

For example, five local planning groups met monthly during the planning process, and over 70 public meetings occurred during this same period. Additionally, four educational forums on the future management of the forest and four open houses on the forest plan also took place. Mr. Speaker, I can tell you, throughout the whole undertaking, one message was very clear: Designating wilderness areas in the State of Vermont has the overwhelming support of the vast majority of the people in my State.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask for the support of all of my colleagues to pass this important legislation. Enacting this legislation into law will provide lasting benefits to current and future generations of citizens in Vermont and New Hampshire and throughout the entire United States, and I look forward to celebrating this important milestone.

Once again, I want to thank the committee and my colleagues from New Hampshire for their very hard work on this.

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS).

Mr. BASS. I thank the gentlewoman. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to stand here before you in support of S. 4001. As my good friend and colleague from Vermont mentioned a minute or two ago, this is the culmination of a very tortuous negotiation process that has taken place over a period of years. I am very pleased to be able to culminate this process in this fashion as the last bill that I, as the Representative of the Second Congressional District, will be speaking in favor of and supporting on the floor of the House, and probably his last bill as he heads over to represent his great State of Vermont in the U.S. Senate, and I offer him my congratulations.

This is a very significant piece of legislation for New Hampshire and the White Mountain National Forest. It will set aside 34,000 acres in wilderness designated lands, as we said before, in the Sandwich Range and Wild River areas of northern New Hampshire. It is, as was said, the culmination of 5 years of planning on the part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the USDA staff that are on the ground in the area, the stakeholders in the region, including the towns, environmental groups, State reps and State legislators. It is the culmination of an open process in which many, many different points of view were brought into consideration, and this plan was developed. This is the legislative initiative that implements that plan, and I fully support it.

The White Mountain National Forest was established in 1911 through the Weeks Act. It is the most visited national forest in the country. I believe, although I don't recall the exact number right now, but over 5 million people frequent this national forest. We have

two ski areas that exist in it. It is a great source of recreation, but it is also a very diverse ecosystem, and I think that the plan that we have here before us today represents a reasonable compromise between the need to preserve key wilderness areas for future generations and the need to recognize that a national forest is also an economic engine and is part of the economy for the region and a critical part of that economy.

So by including the designations in the State of Vermont, New Hampshire and Vermont are working together, because indeed their forests and our forests are very close to one another. In a bipartisan fashion, with the support of both Governors and the whole delegation to implement this plan, the impact of this designation will not be felt just this year and next year but forever.

So I just want to say that, as my last bill on the floor of the House, I think it is as important a bill as I have ever had because its impact will last long after I am gone and everybody else that is here today. So I want to thank, in closing, all of those who have helped on the House side and on the Senate side to bring this wonderful jewel to New Hampshire and preserving 34,000 acres of the White Mountain National Forest for eternity.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. DRAKE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 4001.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING NEW EFFECTIVE DATE FOR APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF LAW TO PUBLIC LAW 105-331

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6325) to provide a new effective date for the applicability of certain provisions of law to Public Law 105-331.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 6325

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, for the purposes of Public Law 105-331, the end of the 2-year period specified in subparagraph (B) of section 5134(f)(1) of title 31, United States Code, shall be July 1, 2007.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BAKER) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I urge today that the House do pass H.R. 6325, introduced by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE). It is a relatively simple bill in purpose, to accommodate one single intention, and that is to correct an honest misinterpretation of the law governing the distribution of surcharges on the sales of a commemorative coin that honored America's great inventor, Thomas Edison.

Legislation to authorize the coin was approved in 1998, and the coin issued subsequently in 2004. But owing to slightly contradictory information guiding recipients of the surcharges, the recipients did not understand requirements to raise matching funds from private sources, which meant that such funds must be entirely from non-governmental sources. That misunderstanding now has been resolved, and I would like to introduce into the RECORD at this time a letter to that effect, and all agree that a short 6-month extension would then be sufficient to cure any pending problem.

Mr. Speaker, it was a misunderstanding, clearly not at the fault of any one party, but I believe that this remedy being posed by Mr. PALLONE in a bipartisan fashion will cure the defect that we currently face, and I would urge the House to consider the bill and immediately adopt the underlying text.

EDISON MEMORIAL TOWER CORPORATION,
Edison, NJ, November 14, 2006.

CHAIRMAN MICHAEL OXLEY,
Committee on Financial Services,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN OXLEY, The non-profit Edison Memorial Tower Corporation is requesting a 6-month extension to our deadline to raise \$379,000 in private funds in order to secure a \$379,000 matching grant from the United States Mint. These funds, available thanks to the sale of a Thomas Alva Edison Commemorative Coin, will greatly assist us with our efforts to restore Thomas Edison's Menlo Park laboratory site where many of his most important inventions were made.

Our Board has made good progress in our fundraising efforts and we are confident that the additional 6 months will allow us the necessary time to raise the full required amount. We understand that if this 6-month extension is approved, this will be the only extension allowed for this grant. We therefore commit that we will not ask you to consider a further extension of time.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

NANCY L. ZERBE,
Chairperson.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It is especially appropriate for us at a time when we are celebrating or trying to give due recognition to the importance of innovation in our economy that we take this action to make sure that we properly memorialize Thomas Edison in whose honor this whole project has been conceived.

I appreciate very much the majority accommodating us in this, and I want to say especially that the staff on the majority side was particularly helpful. We had a little glitch in terms of how this was drafted and whether or not it was a private bill, and everybody worked very hard to make sure we could do this promptly, since, obviously, we don't expect or hope to be here a whole lot longer. So I am glad we are able to go forward.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield such time as he may consume to the author of the bill and the man who represents the area affected, our friend from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, let me thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, but particularly the gentleman from Massachusetts for all his help in bringing this to the floor in such a timely fashion. Without his help, we certainly wouldn't be here today. And I also want to say that I look forward to when he is the chairman of the Financial Services Committee in the next congress. I introduced this bill with the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) and my colleague from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN) to allow the Edison Memorial Tower Corporation additional time to raise funds to match a Federal grant.

The Edison Memorial Tower, in my district, is a 131-foot tower built in 1937 on the exact spot where Thomas Edison's original Menlo Park laboratory was located in New Jersey. And I think you know this was the place where the electric light bulb and so many inventions were made by Thomas Edison. The Tower was built to commemorate Edison's work and is connected to a museum displaying many of the inventor's creations.

Unfortunately, the Tower has suffered more than \$3 million worth of water damage. The Edison Memorial Tower Corporation, which oversees the Tower, was designated as the recipient of Federal funds under the Thomas Alva Edison Commemorative Coin Act, which passed in 1998. That funding became available at the beginning of last year, but required a non-Federal match. After reading a document published by the Mint, the Tower Corporation originally thought they could use State funds to pay for the match. Unfortunately, they were informed recently by the U.S. Mint that they could only use funds raised from private sources.

Once they realized this, the Tower Corporation approached me for help,

since they were faced with the need to raise more than \$300,000 by December 31 of this year, the statutory deadline. That is why I introduced this bill, which simply extends the deadline by 6 months to give them adequate time to raise private funds. The Board of the Tower Corporation has assured me, as well as Chairman OXLEY and Ranking Member FRANK, that they will be able to raise the necessary funds in 6 months and they would not request another extension.

Mr. Speaker, Thomas Edison's contributions to our society are too numerous to count, but by developing the modern light bulb, he is one of America's most recognized thinkers and inventors. The Memorial Tower helps celebrate his achievements and salutes the spirit of innovation that he fostered. This bill is critical to making sure that the Memorial Tower can be repaired and serve not only as memorial to a great man but also as a symbol of America's potential for technological innovation and achievement.

I want to again express my thanks to Chairman OXLEY and Ranking Member FRANK for their willingness to move this bill, and for the leadership on both sides of the aisle for putting it on the suspension calendar.

I also want to particularly thank Jamie Lizarraga, on the minority staff of the Financial Services Committee, for his diligence and very hard work to move this bill forward. Joe Pinder and Tom Duncan of Chairman OXLEY's staff were also quite helpful, and of course, Eric Gordon of my own staff, here on the left. I want to thank them all.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will go a long way towards ensuring that we can preserve an important landmark saluting a great American.

□ 1045

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I just want to reiterate what he said, particularly about the staff members he named who really took care of this for us and made it very easy.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BAKER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6325.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FINANCIAL NETTING IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2006

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 5585) to improve the netting process for

financial contracts, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendments:

Strike section 7 (relating to compensation of chapter 7 trustees; chapter 7 filing fees).

In section 8 (relating to scope of application), strike the section heading and all that follows through "the amendments made" and insert the following:

"SEC. 7. SCOPE OF APPLICATION.

"The amendments made".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks in this legislation and insert extraneous material thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to be on the floor today to have the opportunity to pass this important financial services legislation that Congresswoman DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and I were able to work together on on a bipartisan basis.

Now, I must confess this new era of bipartisanship I have somewhat questioned with the recent election results. I am not overly optimistic about the coming bipartisanship. I think it must be and most likely will be more rhetoric than reality. But I am grateful to be on a committee where we have had some level of bipartisanship and cooperation, although imperfect; but on this legislation, Congresswoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and I, as freshmen, were described in the U.S. Today as the ying and yang of the freshman class, the most liberal and the most conservative members of the 109th Congress, the new Members for it. And DEBBIE and I set out then to work on some legislation together, and I am grateful that we were able to get that done here in the waning days of the 109th Congress.

The legislation that we have before us today is the Financial Netting Improvement Act, which makes a number of technical changes to the financial contract safe harbor provisions for the Federal Deposit Insurance Act and other Federal insolvency laws. The netting provisions reflect years of work within the President's Working Group on Financial Markets, Treasury, Federal Reserve Board, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the FDIC. This is the result and the fruits of that long labor. The amendment on this legislation from the Senate is very minor, and we are able to accept it in the House.

Mr. Speaker, with that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I concur with the substantive discussion of this bill from the gentleman from North Carolina. His comments on bipartisanship seem to me rather odd, and I will not dwell further on them. It does seem to me if you were trying to promote bipartisanship, as we all are, beginning by attacking the sincerity of those who will be in charge of it is not a good idea. But the gentleman is free to speculate as he wishes.

The bill itself is, as he described it, a good idea. We originally passed it with an amendment from the Judiciary Committee. Frankly, I was not in favor of that amendment. I think what the Senate has done has improved the bill; and that is not a sentence I always get to say, but I do want to say in this case. I think it is now a good bill and more consumer friendly.

The gentlewoman from Florida was very much interested in this, and quite right to push for it. Our colleague from North Carolina (Mr. WATT) had some concerns about some potential negative effects on consumers. It has all been worked out, so it is now a bill that improves the administration of the system, and I generally support it.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the chairman of the Capital Markets Subcommittee on Financial Services, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BAKER) who has been a wonderful friend and ally on the committee.

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and wish to express appreciation to my friends on the other side for their work in this arena.

It flows from the problems that erupted during the fall of 1998 when the then largest hedge fund in the world, LTCM, pursuant to a Russian currency crisis, found itself unable to meet its financial obligations. When the New York Fed arrived at the meeting location to determine how to best resolve this uncertainty, they were surprised to find the scope and complexity of the financial relationships that LTCM had with significant and large financial institutions, both U.S. and abroad. There was not in place at that time a mechanism where counter-party obligations could be unwound without wreaking havoc and some sort of domino effect, potentially bringing significant adverse financial consequences to large numbers of individuals who had no knowledge of their exposure to the LTCM instability.

Further, at the time of LTCM's demise at the end of 1998, they had approximately \$1.5 trillion in notional amounts of derivative positions held worldwide. And their leverage ratio exceeded 28 to 1. In other words, this was not a good thing. They were significantly larger in scope than any of the

largest commercial banks. And although others enjoyed higher leverage ratios, few had the sophisticated relationships with counter parties that were engaged by LTCM.

The provisions of the bill now suggested by the gentleman from North Carolina is the ability to close out what are called netting relationships to prevent the failure of one entity from causing a domino effect of more serious disruption, known as systemic risk. Absent the adoption of these provisions with the growth in size of hedge funds and in number of hedge funds, there is considerable market uncertainty as to how a bankruptcy proceeding would affect market liquidity. The unwinding of these obligations, and let me quickly add that it is in scope much larger than impact just in hedge funds; it does go to the broader financial marketplace, all of which have in common that these transactions are put in place through intermediaries such as stock brokers, smaller financial institutions, securities clearing agencies that often hedge their risk on transactions through securities collateral received pursuant to these obligations.

As a result, this will provide a safe and secure mechanism to unwind complex financial relationships, minimizing market instability, providing market liquidity and ensuring that our economic system is not adversely impacted by the demise of a hedge fund. In essence, that is a good thing, and I commend the gentleman for his work product.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Louisiana for his kind words. And with that I would like to close by again thanking the Congresswoman from Florida for her work and assistance on this legislation. As I understand it, she was detained with an important meeting, an event today, from being here on the floor. But I want to thank her for working with me in a bipartisan way, and I am hopeful that this is a new direction for the coming Congress of bipartisanship.

As I said in the beginning, I am not overly optimistic about the opportunities, but I think this may begin that new direction.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MCHENRY. I would be delighted to yield.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. When the gentleman from North Carolina says he hopes this is a new direction that will lead to bipartisanship, does that not mean that he believes that under his party's rule there was none?

Mr. MCHENRY. No.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. That the old direction was partisanship?

Mr. MCHENRY. I believe the gentleman is well versed in the knowledge of what sarcasm means, and perhaps I was a bit sarcastic in my quoting the new direction. I look forward to action in the coming Congress on a bipartisan basis.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Will the gentleman yield further?

Mr. MCHENRY. Absolutely. I would be happy to yield.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. I will confess to sometimes starting slow, and I am getting old. It would probably be helpful in the future if the gentleman would find some way to signal when he was being sarcastic. That would help my understanding.

Mr. MCHENRY. Thank you. I certainly appreciate the gentleman's guidance on signals. I will make sure, going forward, I smile or wave when I am being sarcastic. Or the gentleman, who will be the chairman of my committee in the next Congress, I will simply just speak when I am being sarcastic on your committee in the next Congress, if that would be all right.

Actually, before I close, I want to give one final story. Before I got on the Financial Services Committee, a senior Member told me that with the ranking Democrat from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) that if he ever asks you to yield in a committee debate, say "no." And I said, why; isn't that rude? He says, well, you have never been in a debate with BARNEY FRANK, have you?

Well, sure enough, 6 months in, I say something and the ranking member asks me to yield. And as a new Member, I mistakenly said "yes."

I will not make that mistake going forward. The gentleman is quite able with his arguments, a Harvard educated attorney. I respect his ability to make an argument and to make the opposition look silly.

And with that, as the opposition, I would sit down and say, Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 5585.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those voting have responded in the affirmative.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

CONGRATULATING THE ST. LOUIS CARDINALS ON WINNING THE 2006 WORLD SERIES

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1078) congratulating the St. Louis Cardinals on winning the 2006 World Series.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 1078

Whereas the St. Louis Cardinals won the 102nd World Series on October 27, 2006;

Whereas this is the 10th World Series title won by the St. Louis Cardinals;

Whereas Manager Tony La Russa is one of only 2 managers in the history of baseball to win the World Series in both the National League and the American League;

Whereas the manager and coaching staff have done a remarkable job guiding this team to victory;

Whereas General Manager Walt Jocketty and owner Fred Hanser have assembled and led a great organization;

Whereas all 25 players on the playoff squad contributed to the victory, including World Series Most Valuable Player David Eckstein, Gold Glove winners Albert Pujols and Scott Rolen, as well as Chris Carpenter, Randy Flores, Josh Hancock, Tyler Johnson, Josh Kinney, Braden Loper, Anthony Reyes, Jeff Suppan, Brad Thompson, Adam Wainwright, Jeff Weaver, Gary Bennett, Yadier Molina, Ronnie Belliard, Aaron Miles, Chris Duncan, Jim Edmonds, Juan Encarnacion, John Rodriguez, Scott Spiezio, So Taguchi, and Preston Wilson;

Whereas the sole goal of all 25 players on the playoff squad was winning the World Series, rather than chasing individual glory;

Whereas these players have been awarded a variety of honors, including the Most Valuable Player Award, the Cy Young Award, the Gold Glove Award, the Silver Slugger Award, the Rookie of the Year Award, and the opportunity to appear in All-Star games;

Whereas the St. Louis Cardinals have a history of great players, including Bob Gibson, Lou Brock, Ozzie Smith, Curt Flood, Willie McGee, and Stan Musial;

Whereas St. Louis has a wonderful baseball tradition because Cardinals fans have faithfully supported their team; and

Whereas the San Diego Padres, the New York Mets, and the Detroit Tigers proved worthy and honorable opponents during the post-season: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the St. Louis Cardinals on winning the 2006 World Series; and

(2) commends the players, coaches, management, and all other personnel of the St. Louis Cardinals, as well as the fans, on this great victory.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the St. Louis Cardinals brought home their 10th World Series title on October 27 of this year, and I would like to congratulate the team, coaches, managers and fans on this exciting victory.

With a history of outstanding players and sportsmanship, Cardinal team members have received numerous awards over the years, including Rookie of the Year, Most Valuable Player

and Silver Slugger award. I would also like to mention that Tony LaRussa is one of just two managers in baseball history to win the World Series in both the National and American Leagues.

I urge all Members to join me in congratulating the St. Louis Cardinals on their success in the 102nd World Series and for keeping America's pastime a thrilling sport to watch.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1100

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my hometown St. Louis Cardinals on winning the 2006 World Series. Rather than chase individual glory, the sole goal of all 25 players on the playoff squad was winning the World Series.

While many of these players have been awarded a variety of honors, including the Most Valuable Player Award, the Cy Young Award, the Gold Glove Award, the Silver Slugger Award and the Rookie of the Year Award, and the opportunity to appear in All-Star games, I congratulate this year's World Series MVP, David Eckstein, along with two Gold Glove winners, Albert Pujols and Scott Rolen.

St. Louis has a wonderful baseball tradition, because Cardinal fans have always faithfully supported their team. The St. Louis Cardinals have a history of great players, including Bob Gibson, Lou Brock, Ozzie Smith, Curt Flood, Willie McGee and Stan Musial. Against all odds, the extraordinary win marks the 10th World Series title for the Cardinals.

I commend General Manager Walt Jocketty and owner Fred Hanser for assembling and leading a great organization. In addition, Manager Tony LaRussa and the coaching staff have done a remarkable job of guiding this team to victory. I would also like to commend the San Diego Padres, the New York Mets and the Detroit Tigers for proving worthy and honorable opponents during the post-season.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great privilege that I pay tribute to the players, coaches, management and all other personnel of the St. Louis Cardinals, as well as the fans, who, I may note, have never had a riot after the celebration starts for a World Series title. On this great victory today, before Congress, I ask for approval of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, my husband, who is one of the biggest sports fans in the world, and a huge, huge baseball fan, always finds it amusing when I handle these bills on the floor. Because while I do my best to try to keep up with what is going on in all the sports, I can't always keep up with everything that is going on.

As a family that supports the Dodgers, we want to particularly make this

a significant congratulations to the St. Louis Cardinals for carrying on such a fine tradition in winning the World Series.

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 2006 World Series Champion St. Louis Cardinals. Join me in congratulating the front office, the coaches and the players in bringing home the 10th World Series Title in franchise history and the first since 1982.

After struggling for much of the regular season's final four months, the redbirds overcame numerous injuries and ended the regular season with an 83–78 mark to take the National League Central Division Pennant over the Houston Astros by a game and a half.

St. Louis was an underdog going into the playoffs and upon victory became only the second franchise in Major League history to win the World Series without having home field advantage in any of their postseason series. Cardinal Manager Tony LaRussa, who also won a World Series in 1989 with the Oakland Athletics, joined Sparky Anderson as the only manager to win a World Series title in both the American and National Leagues. Many analysts of the game have said that this was Tony LaRussa's finest season of management after a long and historic career.

After barely holding on to their playoff spot, the St. Louis Cardinals found new life and energy from their reinvented pitching staff. The Starting rotation of 2005 Cy Young Award winner Chris Carpenter, Jeff Weaver, Jeff Suppan, and Anthony Reyes pitched brilliantly and were backed up by a host of relievers led by closer Adam Wainwright. Wainwright finished his extraordinary postseason with 1 win along with 4 saves and 15 strikeouts in 9.2 innings of work.

Upon defeating the San Diego Padres in four games and winning a heated seven game series against the New York Mets, the match up between the St. Louis Cardinals and the Detroit Tigers proved to be one for the history books. Some of the series highlights include Chris Carpenter's game 3 performance where he pitched 8 innings of shutout baseball, tallying 6 strikeouts, no walks, and allowing only three hits. Also, during the series Scott Rolen came through in the clutch with a .421 batting average and a .476 on base percentage with 5 runs scored.

In Game 5, Starter Jeff Weaver crafted an amazing 2 run, 8 inning performance; He finished the postseason with a 2.43 earned run average, which paced all Cardinal starters. David Eckstein, World Series Most Valuable Player, drove in the first run and scored the Cardinals' final run in the Cards' 4–2 win over the Tigers. His hard nosed, strong willed series performance that totaled 8 hits and 5 RBIs in the final 3 games acted as the catalyst for Cardinal victory.

Once again I want to congratulate the 2006 World Series Champions for bringing the city of St. Louis and the Cardinal Nation its 10th World Series title.

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1078, a resolution congratulating the St. Louis Cardinals on winning the 2006 World Series on October 27, 2006.

This Resolution commends the players, coaches, management, and other personnel of the St. Louis Cardinals on this victory.

This achievement is heightened by the fact that this is the 10th time the St. Louis Cardinals have won the World Series, which is a truly remarkable feat as it is the 2nd most World Championships in the history of baseball.

Manager Tony LaRussa is one of only two managers to win the World Series in both the National and the American League.

St. Louis has a storied baseball tradition. We have the best fans in the Nation, who have faithfully and unwaveringly supported the team.

In the recent past, some of the Cardinals players have been awarded a variety of honors, including the Most Valuable Player Award, the Cy Young Award, the Gold Glove Award, the Silver Slugger Award, and the Rookie of the Year Award.

These honors place the players alongside some of the Cardinals most respected legends, including Bob Gibson, Lou Brock, Ozzie Smith, Curt Flood, Willie McGee, and Stan Musial.

The 2006 World Series Championship has added to this remarkable tradition of St. Louis Cardinals' Baseball. Again, Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this Resolution to honor the World Champion St. Louis Cardinals.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my heartfelt support for H. Res. 1078, congratulating the St. Louis Cardinals on winning the 2006 World Series. I was born and raised in East St. Louis, Illinois, and have been a lifelong Cardinals fan. The district I represent, directly across the Mississippi River from St. Louis—the Metro East, extending to Cairo at the southernmost tip of Illinois, is in the heart of Cardinal country, and is still reveling in this victory.

The feeling for Cardinals fans has been especially strong for this great accomplishment because even though it is the Cardinals 10th World Series Championship, and even though the Cardinals have regularly been in the playoffs in recent years, they had not won the Series since 1982. And there has been heartbreak inbetween these wins. Cardinals nation thought they had another title in 1985, only to be victim of the worst call in baseball history, when umpire Don Denkinger missed a routine put out by the Cards at first base in the ninth inning of game six, giving the Royals new life, and a Series win when they came back to win games six and seven.

In 1987, the Cardinals lost the Series in seven games to the Minnesota Twins, winning the three games played in St. Louis but losing all four games in Minnesota's Metrodome. Just two years ago, the Cardinals were swept in four games by the long-waiting Boston Red Sox.

The feeling is also strong because this Cardinals team, by the end of the season, was not expected to go far in the playoffs. Winning 83 regular season games after a late season slide, the fewest of any World Series champion ever, the Cardinals got hot in the playoffs, dismantling the San Diego Padres and winning a tough series against the favored New York Mets. In the Series, the Cardinals were again underdogs as they faced the red-hot Detroit Tigers, a team that beat

the mighty Yankees and the Oakland A's, dropping only one game in the process.

But the Cardinals were undaunted, and guided by veteran manager Tony LaRussa, and relying on a bullpen full of rookies, resurgent starting pitching and timely hitting—and benefiting from numerous Tiger errors—the Cardinals cruised to the title in five games.

The entire roster is worthy of mention, as this was a total team effort, but several players stood out, including rookie closer Adam Wainwright, who was thrust into the role because of a late season injury, David Eckstein, the Series MVP, late season pick-up Jeff Weaver, who had a 2.77 ERA in two starts despite a sub-par regular season, mostly with the Angels, and Yadier Molina, the catcher known more for his great defense but who hit .412 in the Series.

Mr. Speaker, Cardinals fans pride themselves on their love of this team and the respect they show for the opposition and the game of baseball, and winning the Series was a great way to open the brand new Busch Stadium. We are also proud of the great history of this team, and what it means to our region, and I am glad we have the opportunity to honor the entire organization today. I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the St. Louis Cardinals on a tremendous season that culminated in their 10th World Championship.

The Cardinals were a great team led by a great manager in Tony LaRussa and by arguably the game's greatest player in Albert Pujols.

Cardinal fans everywhere should be rightfully proud of this great championship because they beat a true team that shocked the baseball world in their run to the World Series.

You see, I am a fan of the American League Champion Detroit Tigers.

At the start of the season nobody gave the Tigers a chance, but they underestimated the grit and determination of our team.

Much credit needs to go to owner Mike Ilitch for putting together a strong leadership team.

Team President Dave Dombrowski rebuilt our player development system which has produced so many new stars and when combined with his deft trades produced an incredible team.

Then he hired a great leader in Manager Jim Leyland who insisted upon teamwork and a commitment to fundamentals that brought out the best in a group of talented players.

And talented they are.

A future Hall of Famer in Pudge Rodriguez behind the plate.

A veteran leader at first in Sean Casey.

ALCS MVP Placido Polanco at second base.

Tiger of the Year Carlos Guillen at shortstop.

Brandon Inge at third who hit 27 homers from the bottom of the lineup.

Craig Monroe in left who delivered 28 homers during the season and five more in the post season.

Twenty-five-year-old Curtis Granderson in center who was the guy who got it started at the top of the lineup.

And Magglio Ordonez in right who will always be remembered in Detroit for his dramatic walk off homer that sent this team to the World Series.

But the best part of the Tigers is our incredible pitching staff.

Kenny Rogers was signed in the offseason and many questioned why a team would invest so much in a 41-year-old left hander. Well because he went on to win 17 games, mentored a young pitching staff and won three post season games without allowing a single run!

Twenty-four-year-old Jeremy Bonderman won 14 games and finished second in the American League in strike outs.

Twenty-three-year-old Justin Verlander won 17 games on the way to becoming American League Rookie of the Year.

Twenty-nine-year-old left hander Nate Robertson was a bulldog starter who delivered 13 wins.

Thirty-eight-year-old Todd Jones didn't blow people away but did deliver 37 critical saves.

While 21-year-old Joel Zumaya and his 103-mile-per-hour fastball provided the foundation for our tremendous bullpen depth.

What a team!

This group lifted the city of Detroit and the State of Michigan on their backs for a tremendous ride through a beautiful spring, summer and fall.

They are built upon a strong foundation and with a commitment to team work that bodes well for the future.

And the Tigers are not resting on the laurels of an incredible season.

They have already added slugger Gary Sheffield to their already impressive lineup which should send shivers through the rest of the American League.

And while the Cardinals may have gotten revenge this year for the Tigers victory in the 1968 World Series, we are already working on getting revenge for 2006.

Again congratulations to the 2006 World Champion St. Louis Cardinals.

And congratulations and thank you to the American League Champion Detroit Tigers on a magical season.

Bless you boys and go get 'em Tigers!

Mr. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1078.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those voting have responded in the affirmative.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2007

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 100) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2007, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.J. RES. 100

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007 (Public Law 109-289, division B) is amended by striking the date specified in section 106(3) and inserting "December 8, 2006".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. LEWIS of California. I appreciate the recognition, Mr. Speaker. I don't anticipate I will use the entire 20 minutes, but we will see how we proceed here.

Mr. Speaker, I bring before the House a continuing resolution for fiscal year 2007. This CR runs through December 8. It is clean without exception. This CR will fund the agencies and the nine remaining bills awaiting conference at the lower rate of the House-passed, Senate-passed or current fiscal year 2006 level.

When we passed the last CR, my hope was that it would provide a strong motivation for Congress to complete its work in regular order. I remain hopeful that our colleagues in the Senate will complete their work on the floor so that we can move the remaining individual conference reports before the end of our legislative session.

I want the body to know that the Committee on Appropriations has been strongly committed to bringing to this floor individual conference reports for each and every bill.

This committee does not support an omnibus in any form and has done everything in its power to ensure that that does not happen. The Appropriations Committee passed each bill of the 11 subcommittee bills out of the full committee by June 30, and with the exception of the Labor-HHS bill, all of those bills were off the floor by the Fourth of July break.

The Appropriations Committee has remained committed to moving these bills individually and within the framework of the budget resolution. My colleagues, the Appropriations Committee has kept its word. I am convinced that moving bills individually is the only way for us to get back to regular order.

Lacking regular order, there is a tendency for the remaining bills to become Christmas trees and for spending to grow out of control. In my view, that is simply not acceptable.

I urge my colleagues to support this CR, and would like to close my remarks by wishing all of my friends, as we go out of town, a happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is important for us to understand where we stand at this point. At this point, we have completed the Defense bill and the Homeland Security bill, but we still at this point have not seen the Congress complete action on a single domestic appropriation bill.

So what we are facing is the need within the next 2 weeks, in my view, to try to finish our work, and I think we have a responsibility to do so. The Congress left town for almost 6 weeks for the election. Now because of that long period of time, we face the fact that we still have a huge amount of appropriations work to do.

The House produced final action on every single one of the appropriation bills except the Labor-HHS, and the Senate is in the process, I hope, of moving those bills forward. The Senate passed the Military Construction bill yesterday. It is my understanding that they are taking up the Agriculture bill this week and will also perhaps take up the Energy and Water bill. I hope that is the case. I agree with the gentleman that I would much prefer to see these bills handled in regular order, one by one, on a separate basis.

Having said that, my primary purpose is to see to it that they move, and I care less about how they move than whether they move, and I think most American citizens feel the same way. I think we have a duty to finish action on all of these bills, and I think it would be sad, indeed, if we were to adjourn this Congress with local units of government, local school boards, local program managers and State program managers not having any idea what the final resolution of these bills will be.

So while I certainly agree with the gentleman that it is preferable to move individual bills, I am open to any suggestion procedurally in order to finish that work. We have cooperated on the minority side of the aisle.

We have cooperated procedurally with the majority on every single appropriation bill, even though we have not agreed with the contents on some of those bills. I am willing to entertain procedural compromises. I am willing to entertain substantive compromises. But we need to try to move all of these bills by whatever method makes it possible to do so.

I would simply note, there is one bill that remains in the House for us to act on, and I am perfectly willing to try to work out additional compromises on that bill if that will help the bill to move. I don't like the idea that the Senate might wind up moving first on that bill, but even then, I think our primary obligation is to get this work done.

So I would urge the leadership and I would urge the gentleman and anyone else interested to please recognize that it would be irresponsible for this Congress not to finish its work. I would like to see a more productive closing to

this session of Congress than has often been the case, and I am perfectly willing to work with anybody on any day in any way in order to get that done.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 100.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the joint resolution was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Concurring in the Senate amendments to H.R. 5585, by the yeas and nays;

H. Res. 1078, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

FINANCIAL NETTING IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2006

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and concurring in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 5585.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 5585, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 395, nays 0, not voting 37, as follows:

[Roll No. 522]

YEAS—395

Abercrombie	Berkley	Boyd	Capuano	Hinojosa	Moran (KS)
Ackerman	Berman	Bradley (NH)	Cardin	Hobson	Moran (VA)
Aderholt	Berry	Brady (PA)	Cardoza	Hoekstra	Murphy
Akin	Biggart	Brady (TX)	Carnahan	Holden	Musgrave
Alexander	Bilbray	Brown (OH)	Carson	Holt	Myrick
Allen	Bilirakis	Brown (SC)	Carter	Honda	Nadler
Andrews	Bishop (GA)	Brown, Corrine	Case	Hooley	Napolitano
Baca	Bishop (NY)	Brown-Waite,	Castle	Hostettler	Neal (MA)
Bachus	Bishop (UT)	Ginny	Chabot	Hoyer	Neugebauer
Baird	Blackburn	Burgess	Chocoma	Hulshof	Northup
Baker	Blumenauer	Burton (IN)	Clay	Hunter	Nunes
Baldwin	Blunt	Butterfield	Cleaver	Inglis (SC)	Nussle
Barrett (SC)	Boehler	Buyer	Clyburn	Inslee	Oberstar
Barrow	Boehner	Calvert	Coble	Israel	Obey
Bartlett (MD)	Bonilla	Camp (MI)	Cole (OK)	Issa	Olver
Barton (TX)	Bonner	Campbell (CA)	Conaway	Istook	Ortiz
Bass	Boren	Cannon	Conyers	Jackson (IL)	Osborne
Bean	Boswell	Cantor	Cooper	Jackson-Lee	Otter
Beauprez	Boucher	Capito	Costa	(TX)	Owens
Becerra	Boustany	Capps	Costello	Jefferson	Oxley
			Cramer	Jenkins	Pallone
			Crenshaw	Johnson (IL)	Pascarell
			Crowley	Johnson, E. B.	Pastor
			Cuellar	Johnson, Sam	Paul
			Culberson	Jones (NC)	Payne
			Cummings	Jones (OH)	Pearce
			Davis (AL)	Kanjorski	Pence
			Davis (CA)	Kaptur	Peterson (MN)
			Davis (FL)	Keller	Peterson (PA)
			Davis (IL)	Kelly	Petri
			Davis (KY)	Kennedy (MN)	Pickering
			Davis (TN)	Kennedy (RI)	Pitts
			Davis, Jo Ann	Kildee	Platts
			Davis, Tom	Kind	Poe
			Deal (GA)	King (IA)	Pombo
			DeFazio	King (NY)	Pomeroy
			DeGette	Kingston	Porter
			Delahunt	Kirk	Price (GA)
			DeLauro	Kline	Price (NC)
			Dent	Knollenberg	Pryce (OH)
			Diaz-Balart, L.	Kolbe	Putnam
			Diaz-Balart, M.	Kucinich	Radanovich
			Dicks	LaHood	Ramstad
			Dingell	Langevin	Rangel
			Doggett	Lantos	Regula
			Doolittle	Larsen (WA)	Rehberg
			Doyle	Larson (CT)	Reichert
			Drake	Latham	Renzi
			Dreier	LaTourette	Reyes
			Duncan	Leach	Reynolds
			Edwards	Lee	Rogers (AL)
			Ehlers	Levin	Rogers (KY)
			Emanuel	Lewis (CA)	Rogers (MI)
			Emerson	Lewis (GA)	Rohrabacher
			English (PA)	Linder	Ros-Lehtinen
			Eshoo	Lipinski	Ross
			Etheridge	LoBiondo	Rothman
			Everett	Lowey	Royal-Ballard
			Farr	Lucas	Royce
			Fattah	Lungren, Daniel	Ruppersberger
			Feeney	E.	Rush
			Ferguson	Lynch	Ryan (OH)
			Filner	Maloney	Ryan (WI)
			Fitzpatrick (PA)	Manzullo	Ryun (KS)
			Flake	Marchant	Salazar
			Forbes	Marshall	Sánchez, Linda
			Fortenberry	Matheson	T.
			Fox	Matsui	Sanchez, Loretta
			Frank (MA)	McCarthy	Sanders
			Franks (AZ)	McCaul (TX)	Saxton
			Frelinghuysen	McCollum (MN)	Schakowsky
			Garrett (NJ)	McCotter	Schiff
			Gerlach	McCreery	Schmidt
			Gilchrest	McDermott	Schwartz (PA)
			Gingrey	McGovern	Schwarz (MI)
			Gonzalez	McHenry	Scott (GA)
			Goode	McHugh	Scott (VA)
			Goodlatte	McIntyre	Sekula Gibbs
			Gordon	McKeon	Sensenbrenner
			Granger	McKinney	Serrano
			Graves	McMorris	Sessions
			Green (WI)	Rodgers	Shadegg
			Green, Al	McNulty	Shaw
			Green, Gene	Meehan	Shays
			Grijalva	Meek (FL)	Sherman
			Gutierrez	Meeks (NY)	Sherwood
			Gutknecht	Melancon	Shuster
			Hall	Mica	Simpson
			Harman	Michaud	Sires
			Harris	Millender-	Skelton
			Hart	McDonald	Smith (NJ)
			Hastings (FL)	Miller (FL)	Smith (TX)
			Hastings (WA)	Miller (MI)	Smith (WA)
			Hayes	Miller (NC)	Snyder
			Hayworth	Miller, Gary	Soderl
			Hensarling	Miller, George	Solis
			Herger	Mollohan	Souder
			Herseth	Moore (KS)	Spratt
			Hinchey	Moore (WI)	Stark

Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney

Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt

Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Westmoreland
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—37

Bono
Boozman
Chandler
Cubin
Engel
Evans
Ford
Fossella
Gallegly
Gibbons
Gillmor
Gohmert
Hefley

Higgins
Hyde
Jindal
Johnson (CT)
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kuhl (NY)
Lewis (KY)
Lofgren, Zoe
Mack
Markey
Murtha
Norwood
Pelosi

Rahall
Sabo
Shimkus
Simmons
Slaughter
Strickland
Tancredo
Tanner
Udall (NM)
Wexler
Whitfield

□ 1139

So (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendments were concurred in.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 522 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

CONGRATULATING THE ST. LOUIS CARDINALS ON WINNING THE 2006 WORLD SERIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 1078.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. FOXX) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1078, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 395, nays 0, not voting 37, as follows:

[Roll No. 523]

YEAS—395

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Bean
Beauprez

Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehler
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Boren
Boswell

Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Bradley (NH)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (OH)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite,
Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor

Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Carter
Case
Castle
Chabot
Chocola
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Edwards
Ehlers
Emanuel
Emerson
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Farr
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Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gilchrist
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Gonzalez
Goode
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Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Gutknecht
Hall
Harman
Harris
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hensarling
Herger

Herseth
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Honda
Hooley
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Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
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Kennedy (MN)
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Kilpatrick (MI)
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Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
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Lewis (GA)
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Lipinski
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Lungren, Daniel
E.
Lynch
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
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Marshall
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Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
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McDermott
McGovern
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Meehan
Meek (FL)
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Melancon
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Millender-
McDonald
Miller (FL)
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Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George

Mollohan
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Murphy
Musk
Myrick
Nadler
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Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
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Osborne
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Pascarell
Pastor
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Payne
Pearce
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Peterson (MN)
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Petri
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Price (GA)
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Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
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Renzi
Reyes
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Rogers (AL)
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Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
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Roybal-Allard
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Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
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Sánchez, Linda
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Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Schakowsky
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Scott (GA)
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Sekula Gibbs
Sensenbrenner
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Smith (NJ)
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Taylor (MS)
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Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden (OR)
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Schultz
Waters
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Weller
Westmoreland
Wexler
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

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Boozman
Buyer
Chandler
Cubin
Duncan
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Evans
Ford
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Gibbons
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Higgins
Hyde
Jindal
Johnson (CT)
Kuhl (NY)
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Lofgren, Zoe
Mack
Murtha
Norwood
Pelosi

Sabo
Saxton
Shays
Shimkus
Simmons
Slaughter
Strickland
Tancredo
Tanner
Udall (NM)
Whitfield

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised that 2 minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1147

So (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ELECTION OF MEMBER TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 1083) and I ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1083

Resolved, That the following Member be and is hereby elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Ms. Sekula Gibbs.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Ms. Sekula Gibbs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid upon the table.

PROVIDING FOR AN ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE TWO HOUSES

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 496) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 496

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Wednesday,

November 15, 2006, Thursday, November 16, 2006, or Friday, November 17, 2006, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, December 5, 2006, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the Senate recesses or adjourns on Thursday, November 16, 2006, or Friday, November 17, 2006, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Monday, December 4, 2006, or Tuesday, December 5, 2006, as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate, or their respective designees, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House and the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the House and the Senate, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate if, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPOINTING DAY FOR THE CONVENING OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE 110TH CONGRESS

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I offer a joint resolution (H.J. Res. 101) and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the joint resolution, as follows:

H. J. RES. 101

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the first regular session of the One Hundred Tenth Congress shall begin at noon on Thursday, January 4, 2007.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT TO FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2006

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today pursuant to this order, it adjourn to meet at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, November 17, 2006, unless it sooner has received a message from the Senate transmitting its concurrence in House Concurrent Resolution 496, in which case the House shall stand adjourned pursuant to that concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2006

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday, December 6, 2006.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

AUTHORIZING PRINTING OF "A HISTORY, COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, 1813-2006"

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Administration be discharged from further consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 423) authorizing the printing as a House document of 'A History, Committee on the Judiciary, United States House of Representatives, 1813-2006,' and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 423

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. PRINTING OF DOCUMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The document entitled "A History, Committee on the Judiciary, United States House of Representatives, 1813-2006" (or the document of the history of the Committee on the Judiciary which is prepared during the One Hundred Ninth Congress with such similar title as may be provided by the Committee), prepared under the direction of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, shall be printed as a House document, with illustrations and suitable binding, in a style and manner determined by the Joint Committee on Printing.

(b) ADDITIONAL COPIES.—With respect to the document described in subsection (a), in addition to the usual number there shall be printed the lesser of—

(1) 900 copies, of which 60 shall be casebound for the use of Members of the Committee on the Judiciary; or

(2) the maximum number of copies for which the total production and printing cost does not exceed \$80,000, with production and distribution to be allocated in the same proportion as described in paragraph (1).

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. EHLERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. EHLERS:
Strike out all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. PRINTING OF DOCUMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The document entitled "A History, Committee on the Judiciary, United States House of Representatives, 1813-2006" (or the document of the history of the Committee on the Judiciary which is prepared during the One Hundred Ninth Congress with such similar title as may be provided by the Committee), prepared under the direction of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, shall be printed as a House document, with illustrations and suitable binding, in a style and manner determined by the Joint Committee on Printing.

(b) ADDITIONAL COPIES.—With respect to the document described in subsection (a), in addition to the usual number there shall be printed the lesser of—

(1) 200 copies, of which 60 shall be casebound for the use of Members of the Committee on the Judiciary; or

(2) the maximum number of copies for which the total production and printing cost does not exceed \$7,000, with production and distribution to be allocated in the same proportion as described in paragraph (1).

Mr. EHLERS (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

The amendment was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TO CLARIFY THE PROVISION OF NUTRITION SERVICES TO OLDER AMERICANS

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 6326) to clarify the provision of nutrition services to older Americans, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H. R. 6328

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. NUTRITION ASSISTANCE.

Notwithstanding section 311 of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3030a), as amended by Public Law 109-365, the Secretary of Agriculture shall fulfill, and accept reimbursement from the Secretary of Health and Human Services for, commodity procurement requests for fiscal year 2007 submitted by the States (as defined in section 102 of the Older Americans Act of 1965) and tribal organizations (as defined in section 102 of such Act) before November 14, 2006, in support of the operation of the nutrition services incentive program authorized by section 311 of such Act as in effect on October 16, 2006.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPOINTMENT OF HON. FRANK R. WOLF AND HON. TOM DAVIS TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS THROUGH DECEMBER 5, 2006

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 15, 2006.

I hereby appoint the Honorable FRANK R. WOLF and the Honorable TOM DAVIS to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through December 5, 2006.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the appointment is approved.

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON TODAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule is dispensed with today.

There was no objection.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I regret that, due to a doctor's appointment yesterday, I was unable to vote on H.R. 6314, a bill extending certain authorities to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out important services that assist America's veterans, and H.R. 864, the Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to both H.R. 6314 and H.R. 864. Veterans who have fought to preserve the freedom and liberty enjoyed in this country deserve our relentless support and commitment. I will continue to show this commitment and pursue legislation such as my bill, The Healthy Vets Act, which would require the VA Secretary to contract with local doctors and hospitals on a case-by-case basis to provide medical services including primary care for those veterans who live far away from VA facilities.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to clarify my position regarding H.R. 6314 and look forward to fostering efforts to improve the lives of veterans and their families.

□ 1200

BUSH INITIATES IRAQ POLICY REVIEW

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, headline today, Bush initiates Iraq policy review separate from Baker's group. Now, this might be good; it might be bad. Remember, the Bush administra-

tion ignored the advice of the State Department Middle East experts about postwar Iraq. He actually ignored the intelligence agencies, the real experts, as opposed to the phony group DICK CHENEY put together. Is he now again going to end-run real experts who are going to give us real choices on how to extricate the United States from Iraq, get our troops out of the middle of a civil war and begin to have those people take care of their own problems?

Only time will tell, but this does cause tremendous concern that suddenly he is going to appoint yet another group in his own administration. It seems like he may want to counter-balance or pick and choose among the real recommendations. Hopefully, they are not going to give us another vacuous document like they did a year ago, the so-called national strategy for victory in Iraq, which has been an abysmal failure.

NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

(Mr. CARDOZA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Saturday, November 18, as National Adoption Day and to celebrate all adoptive families.

On the Saturday before Thanksgiving, courtrooms across this country will come together to dedicate the resources of our judicial system to finalize adoptions of kids currently in the foster care system.

In the 5 years since National Adoption Day was established, it has truly grown into a national celebration. Last year, 3,300 adoptions were finalized as part of 227 nationwide events. These finalized adoptions are cause for celebration. This is a time to commemorate those families that have decided to make a difference in the life of a child.

I commend these families and hope that the children across the Nation will find a place to call home this Saturday as part of National Adoption Day.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Saturday, November 18th as National Adoption Day and to celebrate all adoptive families.

On the Saturday before Thanksgiving, courtrooms across the country will come together to dedicate the resources of our judicial system to finalize adoptions of kids currently in the foster care system.

In the 5 years since National Adoption Day was established, it has truly grown into a national celebration. Last year, 3,300 adoptions were finalized as part of 227 nationwide events.

Unfortunately, despite the declining number of children waiting in foster care, there are still 118,000 children seeking adoption.

This is simply unacceptable. It is our duty as a prosperous Nation to unite and ensure these children find safe, loving homes.

Six years ago, my wife and I decided to expand our family and open our home to two foster care children.

Like many adoptive families, we faced many challenges during this process. But these experiences have only made our family stronger.

The adoption process is often complicated and riddled with paperwork, meetings, and home studies—important factors when accessing the ability of a family to care for a new child—but they can also discourage qualified parents from embarking on the adoption process.

The foster care community has been working with Congress and State governments across the country to streamline the adoption process and focus on limited resources, such as requiring frequent home visits and experienced caseworkers.

As Members of Congress, it is our job to be the voice for foster children and make sure their dreams are recognized. We owe it to them to streamline the adoption process to ensure positive outcomes for these kids.

It is important that we continue to make this process more accessible to families so that these children can be welcomed into loving homes.

Despite the obstacles that we still need to overcome, this is a time to celebrate those families that have decided to make a difference in the life of a child.

I commend these families and hope that children across the Nation will find a place to call home this Saturday as part of National Adoption Day.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

THE AMERICAN WARRIOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, Saturday we celebrated Veterans Day. Veterans Day is a holiday, but it is more of a memorial. It is a day we honor those who served. It started because of the end of the war to end all wars, World War I, and on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, the First World War stopped, and because of that, since then we honor all veterans who have served.

Memorial Day is the day we honor those who served and died. Veterans Day is the day we honor those who served and lived.

In this House of Representatives today, in the 109th Congress, about 25 percent of Congress has served in the military. In 1950, in the fifties, about 65 percent were veterans; 111 Members of Congress served during the Vietnam era, 78 of whom served in the Vietnam era, and 20 of those saw combat. We have our own SAM JOHNSON, who was a Navy pilot during Vietnam, was shot down and spent 7 years in the Hanoi Hilton prisoner-of-war camp.

We have in this House of Representatives at least eight Members who have sons or daughters serving in Iraq or Afghanistan. We have Senator INOUE of Hawaii who was a Medal of Honor winner. All of these people served and served with honor.

War for independence costs the lives of Americans. Freedom has always cost, and it always will, and I think it is worth noting the time frame of the wars that this country has fought in and those who died.

In the War of Independence, 5,000 Americans died. In the Mexican-American War, there were 13,000 Americans. In the War Between the States, there were 250,000 Confederates and 350,000 troops of the Union army, but they were all Americans; 600,000 died for this country. In World War I, there was 116,000. In the great World War II, 408,000 died for this country.

My dad was one of those who served in the great World War II, and he, like many veterans of that war, never talked of that engagement until many, many years after that war was over with.

In Korea, it is sometimes said of the Korea war it is the forgotten war, 55,000 Americans died. In Vietnam, 58,000 died. In the first gulf war, 300 troopers died, and in our latest fight in the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, 3,000 have died.

The point being, in these few wars that I have mentioned, not all of the wars, this country has always called upon the American warrior to be the one to protect us from the forces of all evil.

I have had the honor to be in Iraq with many of our troops, as many of our House Members have been, and I find them to be, in my opinion, the greatest military ever assembled, with their morale extremely high.

Over Labor Day weekend, I had the honor to go and see some of our troops in military hospitals overseas and to see and visit with them, and before I went, I asked my staff in Texas to see if we could arrange to have some of the local school kids write and make some homemade cards. In 2 days' notice, they were able to produce about 5,000 handmade cards that I took to our troops overseas, who were very grateful.

The point being, I think now in this time in our history our country is grateful to the American warrior for putting their life on the line for the rest of us. So we can do no better than to honor those who have served, the American warrior. And though it was said in the Vietnam era that some gave all and all gave some, that is true of the American veteran. So we thank them on this day and every day, those that served and lived and those that served and did die for this country.

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SMART SECURITY

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, last week the American people voted for a new direction in the Nation's Iraq policy. If anything, with the mandate this Democratic majority received, we can be more unapologetic than ever about demanding an end to the Iraq occupation and insisting that we bring our troops home.

But I believe Iraq is a symptom of an even larger problem, that is, a foreign policy that chooses saber rattling over diplomacy and negotiation.

We need an entirely new national security paradigm. For too long, we have equated national security with war and with conquest. It is time we used less brawn and more brains to protect our people and our interests.

Iraq is exhibit A in the case that hawkishness does not necessarily make America safer.

That is where a SMART security plan comes. SMART stands for sensible, multilateral, American response to terrorism.

At its core is a belief that war is a very last resort, that peacekeeping and diplomacy, not invasion and occupation, must be the guiding lights of our foreign policy.

SMART also focuses on stopping the spread of weapons of mass destruction. Not by deposing regimes that do not have them, but with diplomacy, with vigorous inspection regimes and regional security arrangements.

SMART calls for a renewed commitment to the cooperative threat reduction program and calls on the United States to set an example for the world by living up to our own commitments to draw down our nuclear arsenal.

Because, Mr. Speaker, what moral authority do we have to pressure Iran or North Korea about their nuclear ambitions when our government consistently undermines the nuclear and ignores our multilateral obligations in this very area?

Being smart about national security means dramatically rearranging our budget priorities, which in turn means fewer obsolete Cold War weapons systems and more investment in strategies that actually address the security challenges of a new era.

Any smart approach to national security must include an ambitious international development program for impoverished nations, debt relief, democracy building, schooling for women and girls, human rights education, environmental programs, infrastructure development and more.

Think about this, Mr. Speaker. With the money spent on the invasion and occupation of Iraq, we could have fully funded global antihunger efforts for 14 years or provided basic immunization

to children around the world for 113 years or fully funded worldwide AIDS programs for 34 years. We could have spent hundreds of billions of dollars to save lives, instead of destroying them.

For the sake of the next generation, the only future that we have got, before we have destroyed civilization itself, we should strive for nothing less than the end of all wars.

Because of the insanity of war and its disproportionate impact on children, I am pledging never again to cast a vote in Congress in favor of any military action, barring an attack on the United States or protecting against genocide and/or ethnic cleansing, and then only with multilateral humanitarian intervention.

Nor will I pick sides in violent global conflicts, except to condemn all acts of war and terror regardless of ideology, regardless of national interests or religion that motivates them. I refuse to decide who is less wrong.

If I could be persuaded that taking up arms actually builds enduring stability, I would reconsider my position, but this notion that war begets peace is as illogical as it sounds. Our preemptive strike on Iraq has, in fact, been a catalyst for increased violence and higher rates of terrorism. Our continued occupation is emboldening the insurgents rather than defeating them. Instead of liberating a nation, the Bush doctrine has ripped it apart, ripped it apart at the seams, and instead of protecting America, it has dealt a blow to our very security.

"War," said Martin Luther King, Junior, "is a poor chisel to carve out tomorrow." Tomorrow belongs to our children. So for their sake, Mr. Speaker, let us protect America by relying not on our basest impulses, but on the most honorable and humane of American values, and let us bring our troops home now from Iraq.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SODREL). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING DR. ROBERT LIPSON

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of turn for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a great man who led a purpose-driven life that touched many in my State of Georgia and around the country. Unfortunately, he lost his life Friday afternoon in Marietta, Georgia, riding home from work at Kennestone Hospital on his motorcycle, just a mile and a half from his home.

Dr. Robert Lipson, the chief executive officer and president of Wellstar

Health System, was a man of honor and genuine character. For 5 years, he has boldly led Wellstar, a renowned health system of five hospitals in northwest Georgia. Under his leadership, the Wellstar Kennestone Hospital recently gained an open heart surgery program and an expanded 84-bed patient care tower. Moreover, he has worked to attract world-class physicians to the entire five-hospital system.

Before moving to Atlanta, Dr. Lipson obtained his medical degree from Tulane University, and then he served his country for 2 years in the United States Army. When he moved to Cobb County, he began his 25 years of practicing internal medicine at Kennestone Hospital, and it was my good fortune to meet him then, and we became close friends and colleagues, often caring for each other's patients.

When Dr. Lipson saw the great need for primary care physicians in his community, he decided to leave his lucrative practice and put together the Wellstar team. There, he helped build the Wellstar Physicians Group, which currently is comprised of 250 physicians who are responsible for nearly a million annual patient visits in Northwest Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Lipson will also be remembered as a prolific philanthropist. He was known for his generous spirit, always willing to support charities that needed his help. And due to the financial success of the system he led, he was able to give back compassionately to the community.

Dr. Lipson was also an esteemed amateur photographer, with his art being most recently displayed at Kennesaw State University in Cobb County. And admirers of his work describe the photographs as, and I quote, "awe inspiring," and him as a remarkable talent.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot say enough about this fine man, a man who did more in his too-short 60 years than many can aspire to in a much longer lifetime. Dr. Lipson is survived by his gracious wife, Livvy; his daughter, Dr. Rachel Lipson, who is a practicing neonatologist in Boston; and his son, Aaron, who specializes in health care law. His family meant so much to him, and I want to offer my sincere condolences to them during this time of their profound loss of a loving husband, a devoted father and devoted grandfather.

□ 1215

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MCCARTHY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ELECTION DAY PRIORITIES

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take Mrs. MCCARTHY's time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. OWENS. On election day, Mr. Speaker, there was one message that was sent that seems to be ignored, one very positive message. Six States had on their agenda referendums on the minimum wage. They wanted to raise the minimum wage at the State level. In all six States those provisions passed. The voters have sent us a message. I think they spoke in those six States for the sentiment right across the entire Nation.

People are a little upset about our refusal to govern here, our refusal to raise the Federal minimum wage above the present level of \$5.25 an hour. They want to see action. They are taking action at the State level. And I think one of the things that we should do here, one of the first things we should do when we return in December, is vote to raise the minimum wage. We ought to send that positive message.

While there are debates and speculations on a number of other things that the voters said to us, while there is a great deal of debate about redeployment, about a pull-out of troops in Iraq, while there are still people who want to accuse us of cutting and running; all those things will be happening for a while, but it is a simple matter that we have not raised the minimum wage in 9 years. It is a very simple matter. The Members of Congress have enjoyed increases which amount to more than \$30,000 over that same period.

We have heard again and again what the consequences are about not raising the minimum wage. We know that a family on minimum wage is earning \$10,200 a year. If they work every day, 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year, they come out with a little more than \$10,000 a year on the minimum wage. They say there are not many people still on the minimum wage, but the statistics show differently. The statistics show that families also depend on young people, who also go into the work force and are earning a minimum wage. They need to earn more also.

We made a lot out of boasting about the fact that America has now reached the point of our population being 300 million. We have pointed out that we are the third largest nation in the world, and that is something to be proud of. I think it is. But let us take a look at that 300 million in terms of people who are able to be productive, people able to contribute something to society, people able to take care of themselves. That is the way I define the middle class.

The middle class consists of people who can take care of themselves because they have the capacity to earn income to take care of themselves, and

they also have the capacity to make some contributions to the larger society. We need a middle class. We need more middle class folks.

It is said that the whole nation of Japan is middle class. They do not have a poverty class. I do not know whether it is true or not, but there is a whole lot to it in terms of income levels in Japan. All other nations still have problems with different stratifications in society. In the case of America, 300 million we are, but stop and think about the fact that, in China, with 1.2 billion people, in 2 or 3 years, they expect one-fourth of the Chinese to enter the middle class. They have a rapidly growing middle class. That means, in 2 or 3 years, China will have a middle class which is 300 million, as large as the entire population of the United States. And India has a similar population, and the dynamics of the economy at work in India are similar to those in China. They will have a middle class of 300 million people.

Three hundred million people is about the number of the European common market also. Three hundred million people is the number of people of African descent across the world who speak English. So 300 million people, let us look at it in the perspective of, if we are going to maintain our leadership in the world in a competitive global environment, then we will need all 300 million of our Americans to become productive citizens. That means they ought to be brought into the middle class.

The minimum wage is just a small step forward. You have to also improve education. You have to also take away the burden of having to pay for health care. All those things have to happen. But the simplest thing we can do, the thing we should do when we come back in December, is send a message to the American people that we are going to raise the minimum wage. We are going to move in that one small way toward the creation and the sustenance of a middle class, people who will be able to send their children to college and people who will be able to make a contribution to the global competition that we are going to find ourselves in.

Unfortunately, recent reports by the Associated Press show that certain minorities are lagging behind. Latinos and blacks are lagging behind whites, and Asians are also lagging behind whites in terms of the income gap. The income gap is growing instead of shrinking. So we have work to do, and step one is let's pass the minimum wage as fast as possible. Let's move it up to \$7.25 an hour. That is the least we can do before the end of the session.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 22 REMAINS FAITHFUL TO CONSERVATIVE PRINCIPLES

Ms. SEKULA GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. SEKULA GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, Congressional District 22 in Texas remains faithful to conservative principles.

I am Dr. SHELLEY SEKULA GIBBS, and I am the newly elected Member of Congress from Congressional District 22. The people in my district are hard-working individuals who believe in conservative principles, such as the sanctity of life; traditional marriage between one man and one woman; the right to bear arms; smaller, more efficient government; making tax cuts permanent; winning the war on terror; and opposing a cut-and-run strategy; and stopping illegal immigration while streamlining legal immigration.

The families in Congressional District 22 of Texas want better transportation options, a solid energy policy with energy independence, affordable health insurance, and lower health care costs through the free market. They want affordable, quality education for their children from pre-K to college that is under local control, and strong homeland security to prevent terrorist attacks on our home soil.

One of my district's primary ways in which to prevent a terrorist attack is to be a hard target. The Houston area has all major assets that are attractive to terrorists to attack, as identified by the FBI, including petrochemical facilities that produce 50 percent of the petrochemicals in our Nation and 25 percent of our country's gasoline. The Port of Houston is close to our area and in the city. It is close to our district and in the city, and it is the largest foreign tonnage port in the Nation.

We have NASA's Johnson Space Center there, which is the home of manned space flight. We rely on the 147th Texas Air National Guard with its squadrons of F-16s at Ellington Field to maintain our air defense and make us a hard target. Passing a military appropriations bill today helps us secure our defense, but the fate of the 147th Texas Air National Guard remains uncertain but of critical importance to the people in my district.

Terrorists must not be given an opportunity to bring our great country down, and we must maintain our vigilance. In the BRAC process, some communities were awarded more military infrastructure while others were reduced. Some have turned down those military assets. Florida recently was unwilling to accept naval facilities from Virginia Beach, Virginia. But we in Houston, we hope that our F-16s will be replaced by newer, more technologically advanced jets, and that our squadron will not be relocated. We are

eager to maintain the Texas Air National Guard and look for support on this issue.

In other words, Mr. Speaker, the people in my district want our country to be faithful to the principles that you and the leadership of the Republican party have promoted through your years as the Speaker of the House of this auspicious body.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you for your guidance, your patience and your rock-solid commitment to conservative values on behalf of our great country. And I want to thank you and my colleagues for an appointment to the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and to the Workforce and Education Committee. I commit to working very hard and rolling up my sleeves for our great district and our great country.

May God continue to bless the United States of America, and our men and women in uniform.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. EMANUEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

□ 1230

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL JOSEPH WEBB, JR., DEPUTY SURGEON GENERAL, UNITED STATES ARMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor with a heavy heart to honor a great man, particularly because this comes on the eve of his retirement from the United States Army. I have had the privilege of working with this distinguished gentleman in the service of our country for the last 14 years. His name is Major General Joe Webb, Jr. He has distinguished himself by his exceptional service to the United States of America while in positions of increasing responsibility within the Army Medical Department, a career that was launched in June of 1961 when he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant.

From January 1 of 1996 through 31 December of 2006, he served in successive positions of increasing responsibility as the Senior Dental Corps Staff Officer, with the Office of the Surgeon General; Commander of the United States Army Dental Command; the Assistant Surgeon General for Force Sustainment; Commanding General of Tripler Army Medical Center and DOD Lead Agent for TRICARE in the Pacific region; and culminating his illustrious career in the position of United States Army Deputy Surgeon General.

Major General Webb was an officer and leader who approached each of his

assignments with great tenacity. In a career spanning more than 35 years, this soldier, clinician and commander displayed throughout his distinguished military service the highest levels of leadership, professional competence, integrity and moral courage.

Much is spoken and written about Major General Joe Webb. The consensus and the prose consistently agree that this man is the genuine article. Because of my extensive contact with general officers, I know what attributes are necessary for success at the strategic level. You see, I work with generals that do generals' work, I also have worked with generals that do colonels' work. The most refreshing encounters that I have experienced are with colonels that do generals' work. This was the epitome of Joe Webb.

In 1996, the Dental Corps was confronted with significant recruiting and retention compromises that would have had a detrimental impact on the dental health of soldiers, sailors and airmen if it was not remedied.

I served on the Personnel Committee of the House Armed Services and later chaired that committee, with responsibility for the oversight of the military health delivery system.

My brother, John, is now a Colonel and dentist in the Army Medical Corps; at the time, I went to my brother to say, John, what is the problem? We are not able to retain these dentists. There are so many open slots. We are having an exodus. At the time President Clinton was doing a drawdown. I know a lot of the warriors are leaving the service, but we have to stop the leak.

My brother explained the situation to me and the order of the consequences. He proposed a strategy for success, but more importantly, my brother identified the major players, even mapped out a strategy of success on the back of a napkin and said, I must put you with Joe Webb. Joe Webb was a Colonel at the time, and was a key element of ensuring a successful remedy to this looming problem.

The following day Congressman NORWOOD, Joe Webb, my brother, John, and I initiated a dialogue that focused on a strategy for implementation. The impact of the continuation pay package reached all three services and preserved the human capital necessary to deliver world-class dentistry. This is a living legacy that continues to have far-reaching implications. Many call it propay, but those who receive that check know exactly what it means.

I called upon the combined and extensive expertise of Joe Webb and my brother, John Buyer, as critical resources to make the legislation a reality from its introduction, through conference, and into law. Without their dedicated focus on this issue, it is likely that the continuation pay bill would never have met with the success it had. The Air Force, the Navy and Marine Corps programs rested their future upon the shoulders of then Colonel Joe Webb. But this was common through this man's career.

Having been excited by this success, the team of Joe Webb and John Buyer then elevated the health expectations throughout the dental enterprise. They devised the concept of dental wellness to replace the only adequate dental health standard of dental readiness with an optimal dental health standard of wellness. Dental wellness is now the standard in all three services. Legislation to assist the services in achieving higher levels of dental wellness will continue to have a profound and lasting impact upon future forces.

The team of Joe and John then broke down parochial barriers to successfully make the UHQ MEDIVAC training program at Fort Rucker a reality in time to have a successful impact on the Second Gulf War. So now when a dust-off helicopter comes in, and these litters need to be reconfigured, even at night or under trying circumstances, they have been trained under the difficult standards and are prepared to save lives. This project would never have occurred had it not been for their insights and their strategies.

As a Colonel, Joe Webb also served as the Commander of the largest dental command in the Department of Defense. The United States Army Dental Command, called DENTCOM, is comprised of more than 3,800 personnel and 172 clinics worldwide, and had an operating budget of over \$200 million.

A strategic visionary, Major General Webb impacted the implementation of the dental care reengineering initiative, which revolutionized the provisions of the dental care to soldiers to improve the quality of practice for dental care officers.

This gifted leader then was assigned as the Assistant Surgeon General for Force Development and Sustainment. He moved from a colonel at DENTCOM to this new job as a brigadier general. In this capacity, he was responsible for the Army Medical Department's contracting logistics facilities and information management across the Medical Corps.

This proven and tested leader was then selected for promotion to major general and assigned to command the Pacific Region Medical Command and Tripler Army Medical Center. In this capacity, he was responsible for providing primary, specialty and tertiary care to over 500,000 in the Pacific Command, and over 100,000 VA beneficiaries. He led and managed the day-to-day operations for a 229-bed medical center which is the primary referral medical center in the Pacific. A strategic leader, he played a lead role in the Army's theater security cooperation program, working closely to establish professional medical relationships with other countries. He also reached out to the underserved Pacific Islanders and used all means available to increase access to care for those in need.

In July of 2004, he was selected to serve as the Army Deputy Surgeon General and Chief of Staff of the United States Army Medical Com-

mand. He masterfully guided the activities of an organization which executes an \$8 billion annual operating budget, encompassing over \$6 billion in facilities assets through 12 major subordinate commands, comprised of more than 48,000 military and civilian personnel, eight medical centers, 47 hospitals, 73 separate clinics, 172 dental clinics, 14 biomedical research facilities worldwide. While serving as the Deputy Surgeon General, Major General Webb also placed a renewed emphasis on issues related to the physical and mental well-being of the United States Army Reserve and Army National Guard Members. Under his management and direction, training opportunities for the Reserve AMEDD components were synchronized and improved to meet current and future needs.

Major General Webb's imprint on military medicine extends beyond the Army throughout the Department of Defense and into the national and international communities. His extraordinary achievements are characterized by profound dedication, compassion, intellect and professionalism. Major General Webb's distinguished performance of duty is in keeping with the most proud and cherished traditions of military service and reflects great credit upon himself, the United States Army Medical Command, the United States Army and the United States of America.

I have first- and secondhand knowledge of Joe Webb that few have. That is why I have come to the floor. This is a man that has internal anchors. He has a backbone of steel. When it comes to his passion and his commitment, no one can match him. He requests the noblest of things from the noble, and he achieves great results. This is a great man who served our country for over 39 years and I thank him for his service. This is my friend, Joe Webb.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

STATUS REPORT ON CURRENT SPENDING LEVELS OF ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FY 2007 AND THE 5-YEAR PERIOD FY 2007 THROUGH FY 2011

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUSSLE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, I am transmitting a status report on the current levels of on-budget spending and revenues for fiscal year 2007 and for the five-year period of fiscal years 2007 through 2011. This report is necessary to facilitate the application of sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act and sections 401 and 501 of H. Con. Res.

376, which is currently in effect as a concurrent resolution on the budget in the House under H. Res. 818. This status report is current through November 8, 2006.

The term "current level" refers to the amounts of spending and revenues estimated for each fiscal year based on laws enacted or awaiting the President's signature.

The first table in the report compares the current levels of total budget authority, outlays, and revenues with the aggregate levels set by H. Con. Res. 376. This comparison is needed to enforce section 311(a) of the Budget Act, which creates a point of order against measures that would breach the budget resolution's aggregate levels. The table does not show budget authority and outlays for years after fiscal year 2007 because appropriations for those years have not yet been considered.

The second table compares the current levels of budget authority and outlays for discretionary action by each authorizing committee with the "section 302(a)" allocations made under H. Con. Res. 376 for fiscal year 2007 and fiscal years 2007 through 2011. "Discretionary action" refers to legislation enacted after the adoption of the budget resolution. This comparison is needed to enforce section 302(f) of the Budget Act, which creates a point of order against measures that would breach the section 302(a) discretionary action allocation of new budget authority for the committee that reported the measure. It is also needed to implement section 311(b), which exempts committees that comply with their allocations from the point of order under section 311(a).

The third table compares the current levels of discretionary appropriations for fiscal year 2007 with the "section 302(b)" suballocations of discretionary budget authority and outlays among Appropriations subcommittees. The comparison is also needed to enforce section 302(f) of the Budget Act because the point of order under that section equally applies to measures that would breach the applicable section 302(b) suballocation.

The fourth table gives the current level for 2008 of accounts identified for advance appropriations under section 401 of H. Con. Res. 376. This list is needed to enforce section 401 of the budget resolution, which creates a point of order against appropriation bills that contain advance appropriations that are: (i) not identified in the statement of managers or (ii) would cause the aggregate amount of such appropriations to exceed the level specified in the resolution.

The fifth table provides the current level of the nondefense reserve fund for emergencies established by section 501 of H. Con. Res. 376. The table is required by section 505 of the budget resolution, and is needed to determine whether an increase in the reserve fund, allocations and aggregates will be necessary for any pending legislation that contains emergency-designated discretionary budget authority.

REPORT TO THE SPEAKER FROM THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET—STATUS OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2007 CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ADOPTED IN H. CON. RES. 376 REFLECTING ACTION COMPLETED AS OF NOVEMBER 8, 2006

(On-budget amounts, in millions of dollars)

	Fiscal year 2007	Fiscal years 2007–2011
Appropriate Level:		
Budget Authority	2,283,029	(1)

REPORT TO THE SPEAKER FROM THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET—STATUS OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2007 CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ADOPTED IN H. CON. RES. 376 REFLECTING ACTION COMPLETED AS OF NOVEMBER 8, 2006—Continued

(On-budget amounts, in millions of dollars)

	Fiscal year 2007	Fiscal years 2007–2011
Outlays	2,325,998	(¹)
Revenues	1,780,666	10,039,909
Current Level:		
Budget Authority	2,267,144	(¹)
Outlays	2,275,060	(¹)
Revenues	1,787,453	10,182,016
Current Level over (+) / under (–) Appropriate Level:		
Budget Authority	–15,885	(¹)
Outlays	–50,938	(¹)

REPORT TO THE SPEAKER FROM THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET—STATUS OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2007 CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ADOPTED IN H. CON. RES. 376 REFLECTING ACTION COMPLETED AS OF NOVEMBER 8, 2006—Continued

(On-budget amounts, in millions of dollars)

	Fiscal year 2007	Fiscal years 2007–2011
Revenues	6,787	142,107

¹ Not applicable because annual appropriations Acts for fiscal years 2008 through 2011 will not be considered until future sessions of Congress.

BUDGET AUTHORITY

Enactment of measures providing new budget authority for FY 2007 in excess of \$15,885,000,000 (if not already included in the current level estimate) would cause FY 2007 budget authority to exceed the appropriate level set by H. Con. Res. 376.

OUTLAYS

Enactment of measures providing new outlays for FY 2007 in excess of \$50,938,000,000 (if not already included in the current level estimate) would cause FY 2007 outlays to exceed the appropriate level set by H. Con. Res. 376.

REVENUES

Enactment of measures that would reduce revenue for FY 2007 in excess of \$6,787,000,000 (if not already included in the current level estimate) would cause revenues to fall below the appropriate level set by H. Con. Res. 376.

Enactment of measures resulting in revenue reduction for the period of fiscal years 2007 through 2011 in excess of \$142,107,000,000 (if not already included in the current level estimate) would cause revenues to fall below the appropriate levels set by H. Con. Res. 376.

DIRECT SPENDING LEGISLATION COMPARISON OF CURRENT LEVEL WITH AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE 302(A) ALLOCATIONS FOR DISCRETIONARY ACTION REFLECTING ACTION COMPLETED AS OF NOVEMBER 8, 2006

[Fiscal years, in millions of dollars]

House committee	2007		2007–2011 Total	
	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays
Agriculture:				
Allocation	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0
Armed Services:				
Allocation	45	45	45	45
Current Level	–35	150	34	213
Difference	–80	105	–11	168
Education and the Workforce:				
Allocation	0	1	0	30
Current Level	16	119	178	–1,733
Difference	16	118	178	–1,763
Energy and Commerce:				
Allocation	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0
Financial Services:				
Allocation	0	0	2	2
Current Level	0	0	–5	–5
Difference	0	0	–7	–7
Government Reform:				
Allocation	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0
House Administration:				
Allocation	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0
Homeland Security:				
Allocation	0	0	0	0
Current Level	106	7	0	0
Difference	106	7	0	0
International Relations:				
Allocation	1	1	5	5
Current Level	0	–5	0	–12
Difference	–1	–6	–5	–17

DIRECT SPENDING LEGISLATION COMPARISON OF CURRENT LEVEL WITH AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE 302(A) ALLOCATIONS FOR DISCRETIONARY ACTION REFLECTING ACTION COMPLETED AS OF NOVEMBER 8, 2006

[Fiscal years, in millions of dollars]

House committee	2007		2007–2011 Total	
	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays
Judiciary:				
Allocation	19	16	116	113
Current Level	0	0	0	0
Difference	–19	–16	–116	–113
Resources:				
Allocation	0	0	6	6
Current Level	15	15	27	27
Difference	15	15	21	21
Science:				
Allocation	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0
Small Business:				
Allocation	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0
Transportation and Infrastructure:				
Allocation	13	13	22	22
Current Level	0	–3	–4	–19
Difference	–13	–16	–26	–41
Veterans' Affairs:				
Allocation	0	0	0	0
Current Level	–3	–3	0	0
Difference	–3	–3	0	0
Ways and Means:				
Allocation	0	0	0	0
Current Level	1	–8	1	2
Difference	1	–8	1	2

DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007 COMPARISON OF CURRENT LEVEL WITH APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATION AND APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE 302(b) SUBALLOCATIONS

[In millions of dollars]

Appropriations subcommittee	302(b) Suballocations as of June 6, 2006 (H. Rpt. 109-488)		Current level reflecting action completed as of November 8, 2006		Current level minus suballocations	
	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT
Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA	17,812	19,497	17,771	19,402	-41	-95
Defense	377,357	393,165	377,357	394,244	0	1,079
Energy & Water Development	30,017	31,411	28,924	30,749	-1,093	-662
Foreign Operations	21,300	23,441	19,609	23,144	-1,691	-297
Homeland Security	32,080	38,711	31,905	38,714	-175	3
Interior-Environment	25,889	26,902	25,437	26,536	-452	-366
Labor, HHS & Education	141,930	145,631	150,375	147,565	8,445	1,934
Legislative Branch	4,030	4,013	3,749	3,791	-281	-222
Military Quality of Life-Veterans Affairs	94,705	88,728	86,302	84,498	-8,403	-4,230
Science-State-Justice-Commerce	59,839	62,143	57,422	60,351	-2,417	-1,792
Transportation-Treasury-HUD-Judiciary-DC	67,819	130,069	66,959	128,628	-860	-1,441
Unassigned	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total (Section 302(a) Allocation)	872,778	963,711	865,810	957,622	-6,968	-6,089

STATEMENT OF FY2008 ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS UNDER SECTION 401 OF H. CON. RES. 376 REFLECTING ACTION COMPLETED AS OF NOVEMBER 8, 2006

[IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS]
BUDGET AUTHORITY

Appropriate Level	23,565
Current Level:	
Elk Hills	0
Corporation for Public Broadcasting	0
Employment and Training Administration	0
Education for the Disadvantaged	0
School Improvement	0
Children and Family Services (Head Start)	0
Special Education	0
Vocational and Adult Education	0
Transportation (highways, transit, Farley Building)	0
Payment to Postal Service	0
Section 8 Renewals	0
Total	0

Current Level over (+) / under (-)
Appropriate Level -23,565

STATEMENT OF NONDEFENSE RESERVE FUND FOR EMERGENCIES UNDER SECTION 501 OF H. CON. RES. 376 DISCRETIONARY BUDGET AUTHORITY FOR FY2007 REFLECTING ACTION COMPLETED AS OF NOVEMBER 8, 2006

[IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS]
BUDGET AUTHORITY

Appropriate Level 6,450

Current Level 0

Current Level over (+) / under (-)
Appropriate Level -6,450
U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, November 15, 2006.

Hon. JIM NUSSLE,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget
House of Representatives, Washington, DC

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed report shows the effects of Congressional action on the fiscal year 2007 budget and is current through November 8, 2006. This report is submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the technical and economic assumptions of H. Con. Res. 376, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2007, as approved by the House of Representatives. Although the House and the Senate have not reached agreement on a concurrent budget resolution for 2007, pursuant to House Resolution 818, H. Con. Res. 376 has the force and effect in the House for all purposes of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 as though adopted by the Congress.

Pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2006, and section 402 of H. Con. Res. 376, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2007, provisions designated as emergency requirements are exempt from enforcement of the budget resolution. As a result, the enclosed current level

report excludes certain amounts that affect 2007 spending (see footnote 2 of the report).

Since my last letter, dated September 7, the Congress has cleared and the President has signed the following acts that affect budget authority, outlays, or revenues for fiscal year 2007:

the United States-Oman Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (Public Law 109-283);

the Pueblo de San Ildefonso Claims Settlement Act of 2005 (public Law 109-286);

the Child and Family Services Improvement Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-288);

the Defense Appropriations Act, 2007 (which includes the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007) (Public Law 109-289);

the Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007 (Public Law 109-295);

the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Maintenance Fund Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-314);

the National Heritage Areas Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-338);

the Security and Accountability for Every Port Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-347); and the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109-364).

In addition, the Congress has cleared for the President's signature the Fort McDowell Indian Community Water Rights Settlement Revision Act of 2006 (S. 2464).

Sincerely,
DONALD B. MARRON,
Acting Director.

FISCAL YEAR 2007 HOUSE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT AS OF NOVEMBER 8, 2006

[In millions of dollars]

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Enacted in previous sessions: ¹			
Revenues	n.a.	n.a.	1,819,599
Permanents and other spending legislation	1,400,673	1,333,068	n.a.
Appropriation legislation	0	409,185	n.a.
Offsetting receipts	-549,710	-549,710	n.a.
Total, enacted in previous sessions	850,963	1,192,543	1,819,599
Enacted this session:			
Authorizing Legislation:			
An act to make available funds included in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program for fiscal year 2006 (P.L. 109-204)	-1,000	-520	0
Native American Technical Corrections Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-221)	11	11	11
Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-222)	0	0	-32,674
Heroes Earned Retirement Opportunities Act (P.L. 109-227)	0	0	-4
Veterans' Housing Opportunity and Benefits Improvement Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-233)	-3	-3	0
Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-235)	1	0	1
Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-236)	1	0	5
Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-241)	0	-3	0
Returned Americans Protection Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-250)	0	1	0
An act approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom Democracy Act of 2003 (P.L. 109-251)	0	0	-1
An act to provide funding authority to facilitate the evacuation of persons from Lebanon (P.L. 109-268)	0	-5	0
Pension Protection Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-280)	15	119	363
United States-Oman Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (P.L. 109-283)	1	1	-15
Pueblo de San Ildefonso Claims Settlement Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-286)	7	7	0
Child and Family Services Improvement Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-288)	0	-10	0
National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Maintenance Fund Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-314)	1	1	0
National Heritage Areas Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-338)	3	3	0
Security and Accountability for Every Port Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-347)	106	7	0
John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (P.L. 109-364)	-35	150	0

FISCAL YEAR 2007 HOUSE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT AS OF NOVEMBER 8, 2006—Continued

(In millions of dollars)

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Appropriations Acts			
Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006 (P.L. 109-234) ²	0	-14	168
Defense Appropriations Act, 2007 (P. L. 109-289) ²	377,571	252,047	0
Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007 (P.L. 109-295) ²	32,968	20,406	0
Total, enacted this session	406,646	272,198	-32,146
Passed, pending signature:			
Fort McDowell Indian Community Water Rights Settlement Revision Act of 2006 (S. 2464)	4	4	0
Continuing Resolution Authority:			
Continuing Resolution, 2007	435,429	262,044	0
Entitlements and mandates:			
Budget resolution estimates of appropriated entitlements and other mandatory programs not yet enacted	571,102	548,271	n.a.
Total Current Level ^{2,3}	2,267,144	2,275,060	1,787,453
Total Budget Resolution	2,283,029	2,325,998	1,780,666
Current Level Over Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	6,787
Current Level Under Budget Resolution	15,885	50,938	n.a.
Memorandum:			
Revenues, 2007-2011:			
House Current Level	n.a.	n.a.	10,182,016
House Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	10,039,909
Current Level Over Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	142,107
Current Level Under Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

¹ The effects of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-171) and the Federal Deposit Insurance Reform Conforming Amendments Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-173) are included in this section of the table, consistent with the budget resolution assumptions. In addition, the scoring for the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 includes savings from corrections to two provisions (in sections 8006 and 10002) not yet enacted, consistent with the budget resolution assumptions.
² Pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2006, and section 402 of H. Con. Res. 376, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2007, as approved by the House of Representatives, provisions designated as emergency requirements are exempt from enforcement of the budget resolution. The amounts so designated are as follows:
³ Excludes administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration, which are off-budget.
 Source: Congressional Budget Office.
 Notes: n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.

Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006 (P.L. 109-234)	48	39,863	0
Defense Appropriations Act, 2007 (P.L. 109-289)	70,000	40,473	0
Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007 (P.L. 109-295)	1,829	943	0
Total, enacted emergency requirements	71,877	81,279	0

Note: These amounts are generally excluded from the current level. However, section 402 of the 2007 budget resolution specifies that upon enactment of funding for the global war on terrorism, amounts included in the budget resolution for such purpose shall be considered current law when preparing the current level. Therefore, the current level includes \$50,000 million in budget authority and \$33,500 million in outlays assumed in the budget resolution.

PROSECUTION OF TWO U.S. BORDER PATROL AGENTS: CALLING FOR PRESIDENTIAL ACTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am on the floor today to bring to the attention of the House a situation involving two U.S. border agents. These agents were found guilty in a Federal court for wounding a drug smuggler who brought 743 pounds of marijuana across our southern border into Texas. These agents never should have been prosecuted for their actions last year, yet they have been sentenced to 11 and 12 years in Federal prison respectively.

Agent Ramos served the Border Patrol for 9 years and was a former nominee for Border Patrol Agent of the Year. Agent Compean had 5 years of experience as a border agent. By attempting to apprehend a Mexican drug smuggler, these agents were simply doing their job to protect the American people.

Mr. Speaker, today I have written the President of the United States to express my outrage over his indifference toward the plight of these two agents. Despite my repeated requests for an investigation of this case, and a request by a dozen Members of Congress for the President to pardon these agents, this administration has ignored the concerns of countless citizens who have decried the unjust prosecution of these two heroes.

Press Secretary Tony Snow conveyed the administration's collective dis-

missal of these concerns when he labeled the question of a Presidential pardon for these agents as "nonsensical."

With an approval rating hovering near 30 percent, it is obvious and evident that the citizens of our Nation have been disappointed with this administration.

Mr. Speaker, I am calling on the President to listen to the concerns of the American people and to make it a top priority to pardon these two agents. These agents should have been commended for their actions, but instead the U.S. Attorney's Office prosecuted the agents and granted full immunity to the drug smuggler for his testimony against our agents.

The drug smuggler received full medical care in El Paso, Texas, was permitted to return to Mexico and is now suing the Border Patrol for \$5 million for violating his civil rights.

Mr. Speaker, he is not an American citizen. He is a criminal. And yet, Mr. Speaker, it is our two brave border agents who have been sentenced to serve time behind bars.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to share the last paragraph of my letter to the President. I have mailed this letter today to the White House, and this is the last paragraph of the letter:

"Mr. President, you have an opportunity to reverse a great injustice committed against two agents who have given years of their lives in service to this Nation and who have been unjustly punished for doing their job to protect our homeland.

"On January 17 of 2007, both Agents Ramos and Compean must surrender themselves to Federal authorities un-

less action is taken to overturn their sentences. I strongly encourage you to listen to the concerns of the American people and use the power of your office to pardon these two agents."

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
 Washington, DC, November 15, 2006.

Hon. GEORGE W. BUSH,
 President of the United States,
 Washington, DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT BUSH: I am writing to express my deep disappointment with your Administration's demonstrated indifference toward the case of United States Border Patrol Agents Ignacio Ramos and Jose Alonso Compean. On October 19th, the agents were convicted and sentenced to 11 and 12 years in federal prison respectively for firing shots at a Mexican drug smuggler who brought 743 pounds of marijuana across the U.S. border last year. The two agents were prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's office and the smuggler was granted full immunity to testify against the agents.

In a letter to Press Secretary Tony Snow, I conveyed my extreme disappointment with his responses to questions regarding the agents' case. At press briefings, Mr. Snow labeled a question concerning a presidential pardon for agents Ramos and Compean "nonsensical," and later announced the White House's intention to "wait and see" what a congressional hearing on their case produces.

Despite my repeated requests for an investigation of this case and a request by a dozen members of Congress for you to pardon the agents, your Administration has collectively dismissed these requests and the petitions of countless citizens throughout the country who have decried the unjust prosecution of these two heroes. With an approval rating hovering near thirty percent, it is obvious and evident that the citizens of our nation have been disappointed with your Administration—and I believe your inaction on this issue is a key reason why.

Mr. President, you have an opportunity to reverse a great injustice committed against

two agents who have given years of their life in service to this nation, and who have been unjustly punished for doing their job to protect our homeland. On January 17th, 2007, both agents Ramos and Compean must surrender themselves to federal authorities unless action is taken to overturn their sentences. I strongly encourage you to listen to the concerns of the American people and use the power of your office to pardon these two agents.

Sincerely,

WALTER B. JONES,
Member of Congress.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 31, 2006.

Press Secretary TONY SNOW,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SNOW: I am extremely disappointed by your responses last week to questions regarding the possibility of a presidential pardon for United States Border Patrol Agents Ignacio Ramos and Jose Alonso Compean. On October 19th, the agents were convicted and sentenced to 11 and 12 years in federal prison respectively for firing shots at a Mexican drug smuggler who brought 743 pounds of marijuana across the U.S. border last year. The two agents were prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's office and the smuggler was granted full immunity to testify against the agents.

At press briefings, you labeled a question concerning a presidential pardon for the two agents "nonsensical," and later announced the White House's intention to "wait and see" what a November 13th congressional hearing on their case produces.

Unfortunately, your comments reinforced the perception that the Administration is indifferent toward the agents' case. Despite my repeated requests for an investigation of this case and, most recently, a request by a dozen members of Congress for the President to pardon the agents, the Administration has collectively dismissed the concerns of elected members of Congress and countless citizens throughout the country. Your comments, unfortunately, came across as a continuation of that collective dismissal.

While our Border Patrol is tasked with the difficult and dangerous mission of securing America against illegal immigrants, drugs, counterfeit goods, and even terrorists—it is troubling that the Administration has persistently ignored opportunities to pursue justice for two agents who have been sentenced to prison for doing their job to protect our homeland. It is unconscionable that the Administration would not want justice to prevail for two heroes who have dutifully served this nation on the front lines in the fight against terrorist infiltration and narcotics trafficking on our southern border.

I strongly encourage you to do everything in your power to convince the Administration to investigate the Justice Department's overzealous and unjust prosecution of this case, and to pardon these two agents.

Sincerely,

WALTER B. JONES,
Member of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would hope that the American people would join behind a number of us in this Congress, both Republican and Democrat, and contact the White House and say to the President, for goodness sakes, pardon these two border agents who have done nothing more than try to protect this country.

God bless these two agents and their families, and may God continue to bless America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SCHIFF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CARDOZA addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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RECENT VISIT TO ISRAEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago I visited Israel, spent about 12 days there, and traveled the whole country. We started in the northern part, up around Caesaria Philippi, went down to Elat on the Red Sea, went to Jerusalem, went to Tel Aviv, talked to the people, and had a very good feel for what actually is going on there.

So often on CODELS we are in a country for 24 hours, 36 hours, and we move on. And this was a little different. And so at the present time, obviously, people know that Israel is in a very difficult spot. Recently they had a war involving Hezbollah on their northern border. And the Hezbollah was located in Lebanon, southern part of it, and fired hundreds, if not thousands, of Katyusha missiles into Israel, particularly the northern part of Israel. And yet, as we visited that part of the country, it was almost untouched, it seemed. They had repaired, they had restored, and life was going on as usual only a couple, 3 weeks after the conflict had ended.

As many people know, Hamas is very powerful in Gaza and in the West Bank and has tremendous influence in the Palestinian areas. At the present time, there are rockets being fired by the Hamas people down in Gaza, into Israel.

So as we watch this and as we watch the continual conflict with the Palestinians and the desire for the Palestinians to have a unified state, unifying the West Bank, on the west bank of the Jordan and in the Gaza Strip down in the southwestern part of the country, you can see that Israel is under tremendous pressure.

Yet, the thing that was rather impressive was the staying power, the resolve, the willingness of the Israelis to try to see this through. I guess the lessons that I took away from this, and the concerns, were that, obviously, it is important that the United States have that same staying power, that same will to pull together, that same willingness to survive in the face of adversity.

Because even though we are protected by two great oceans, the world has shrunk. Today we are not as secure as we once were. We face a true global conflict over the horizon. Many of the things that we observed in Israel, I think, apply to us, even though sometimes we are not aware of it.

Tony Blair made an interesting observation here recently. He stated that peace in the Middle East will be hard to come by unless Israel and the Palestinians and Hamas and Hezbollah can somehow resolve their differences. I believe that is very true.

Our focus is on Iraq here in the United States, sometimes on Afghanistan. But at the heart of much of the conflict and much of the turmoil in the Middle East is the conflict that involves terrorist organizations and Israel. I am not here to be partisan and take Israel's side versus another nation's side. I am simply pointing these issues out that I think are very important.

The things that I mentioned that particularly impressed me about the Israelis were, number one, a willingness to persevere in the face of great adversity, and people realize what the terrorists are attempting to do. But also not far away is Iran, and the Iranian president has basically said that he would like to destroy Israel, and everyone knows that at the present time it does appear that Iran is trying to build nuclear capabilities. This is a very tenuous situation as far as Israel is concerned. Despite these threats, as I mentioned, Israel seems to be staying the course, seems to have great resolve, and I would hope that we would have the same resolve in our country in terms of persevering in the face of adversity.

The second thing that I took away from that trip to Israel that I think is important, that may have some applicability to our situation here in the United States, is a sense on the part of the Israelis of having great unity of purpose, a willingness to pull together, a willingness to avoid all fragmentation. I guess when your back is to the wall and you are not very big, you realize that unity of purpose is critical. So we certainly detected that.

I guess I can relate a little bit to my previous experience in the athletic arena in regard to the importance of unity of purpose. A team of great athletes which was polarized and which was divided was not able to accomplish a great deal; and yet a team with less talent which had unity of purpose would usually prevail over a superior

team physically that was divided almost every time.

So the analogy that I would like to draw at this present time are some things that I have observed, as I leave this body, and this has to do really with the recent election. We certainly experienced a very contentious election. We saw a great deal of partisanship; accusations were numerous and sometimes very destructive. There were deep divisions that were very apparent between the two parties.

The general public, at least the public that I dealt with in rural and central parts of America, watched the acrimony and the name-calling with a great deal of dismay and sometimes disgust. And to a significant degree, I believe, the political process and Congress in particular is viewed with a great deal of mistrust and skepticism at the present time. At the root of that, I think, was some of the dialogue that they saw occur in the last several months.

It seems to me, as I talked to my constituents, and people around the country, that the public is counting on us to lead, to unite, to serve the best interests of the country, rather than to point fingers and to seek to destroy the opposition. I think that from this election some lessons can be drawn. Which way this Congress goes, I am not certain, but I at least have some wishes, I have some desires, which I will try to convey.

I guess the majority in the House and the Senate now has changed. It definitely has. This presents two opportunities: number one, an opportunity for the new majority to pay back those who were in the majority for either real or perceived slights and offenses. But the second approach can be something that I think would be more constructive, is a chance to change the political climate, to foster a more cooperative governing style and certainly something that would restore a good deal of confidence on the part of the American people.

I think there are three major factors that people continually point to in regard to the last election, and the two, the first two, have been given preeminence.

First of all, Iraq, the conflict over there, the fact that many Americans have grown weary of it; many Americans have decided that we are on the wrong course. To be honest about it, I don't think that the Congress has a tremendous amount of control over what is happening in Iraq. We have some. We can control funding, and we can make comments here, but we really aren't the generals on the ground. So that really may be a little bit out of our element to some degree.

The second area is the area of ethics, and the fact that many people were very upset with corrupt practices that had occurred on the part of a small number of people but still a number of our Members, and that this is something that Congress definitely does

have directly in its purview. We did some reforms, but not enough, I don't believe, in the last few months. And I believe that Congress, Members of Congress, members of the Senate, have to be above reproach. As Joe Paterno one time said, we cannot only be fair; we have to appear to be fair. We cannot have the perception even of wrongdoing.

As I sat in meeting after meeting after meeting over 6 years, I can't really remember anyone getting up and really addressing the issue of ethics and how important this is in preserving the trust of the American people. It is something that this body obviously has to do a better job with, and I hope that it will become a major priority here.

Then the third thing, which many of the pundits have not referred to very often, has simply been the issue of partisan bickering, which I think would serve us very well to get over to some degree, and it will be interesting to see how that develops as time goes on.

The most hopeful time that I had during my 6 years in Congress was also maybe the worst time, and that was the 3 or 4 months right after 9/11, and almost everyone here can remember those times. We can remember the horror that we felt as we saw the Pentagon destroyed, the Twin Towers go down, the plane crash over Pennsylvania, and the fact that we realized all of a sudden that as a Nation we were vulnerable. That was a terrible time, and there was a lot of rebuilding to do.

At the same time, it was a very hopeful time, because, for 3 months, maybe 4 months, here in this Chamber and over in the Senate, we saw Congress work together, pull together to display a unity of purpose that I had not seen before or since. It showed what we were capable of doing as a body, as a unified organization.

So, as time goes by and as that memory of 9/11 begins to fade, it is easy to begin to become complacent again and decide that the most important thing is party supremacy.

So I would hope that people would realize that even though we have not been attacked for the last 5 years, that attack is still on the horizon; that this is still a world that is very, very combustible at the present time. We really do need to pull together in a way that we have not done for the last 5 years.

Cervantes once said something that was rather important to me in my outlook on life. He said, "The journey is more important than the end." A very brief statement. He said, "The journey is more important than the end."

What he was saying is that the process that we go through, the way we do things, how we do things, why we do things, is really more important than the end result. Sometimes that is easy to say, but it is really hard to live with, because losing an election is very difficult. I have experienced that. Losing a football game is very difficult. Losing a business is very difficult.

But what he was saying is, you know, the process is more important than all

of that. The process is more important than whether you win or whether you lose. You do things in a certain way, and you do them every time, and in the long run, that will be the most important thing.

That is why I point to the fact that doing things the right way here and unity of purpose is going to be very important. This week there will be a big football game; Ohio State is going to play Michigan. One team will prevail. They are both undefeated. I don't know which team is going to win.

But I do know this: The deciding factor will probably be something that was overlooked in the preparation, something that has been laying there for the last 9 or 10 weeks unaddressed.

It may be a fumble. The back doesn't carry the ball high and tight. He flags the ball, something that should have been addressed. It may be an extra point where a guy isn't stepping with his right foot. And all of a sudden, he gets blown off the ball, and somebody blocks an extra point or somebody blocks a punt. It may be fatigue in the fourth quarter; conditioning that wasn't undertaken that should have been done.

Often, that which is ignored which does not seem to be very important or very apparent all of a sudden, in a crisis, becomes critical. That is the way it is with our country at the present time. I feel that there is something that we really are not paying adequate attention to. It is like how you carry the football. It is like blocking. It is like punt protection. Those kinds of things that are little don't seem to make a lot of difference, but all of sudden it jumps up and bites you.

The greatest threat facing the United States as I see it at the present time is something that we need to pay attention to, and that is our young people, because young people are the future.

There was a study that was released today by America's Promise, the organization that was headed up for many years by Colin Powell, still very active, and his wife. They did a research report which released some information that I thought was very revealing. It said, there are really five things that a young person needs to have to grow up and be productive and to be healthy and to help make this country work.

They said, these five promises are: number one, caring adults in that young person's life, and 40 percent of our young people indicated at the present time that they either don't have any or don't have enough. One out of five young people indicate that they do not have a single caring adult in their life, somebody that really cares for them as they are.

Number two, a safe place and a constructive use of time. And a tremendous number of our kids go home to homes that are not safe because of abuse. They live in neighborhoods that, because of gangs or violence or whatever, are not safe. Again, that is a major problem: a healthy start and

healthy development. Many of our young people grow up without adequate medical care, medical attention, and as a result, they don't in the first 3 or 4 or 5 years of life have an even start, and this, again, is a tremendous handicap.

Effective education; 25 percent of our young people don't complete high school. Many of them who do complete high school are not adequately prepared for the world of work, and we are falling behind in many areas internationally in terms of our education.

Then, opportunity to serve other people, to give something of themselves. So the interesting thrust of this whole research study, it was interesting, indicated that 31 percent of our children have either four or five of these essential ingredients, and the conclusion of the study is that these 31 percent will be pretty well prepared.

These 31 percent will do pretty well with the rest of their lives. But then they said, you know, 48 percent have only two or three of these factors, and they have a chance, but they are kind of on the bubble.

□ 1300

If you only have two or three of those five ingredients going in your life, you are somewhat crippled, and you may be fortunate and you may make it, but you may be less than fortunate and you may not make it.

Then the critical thing was, they said 21 percent have only one of those factors, or they have zero, so 21 percent, one out of every five, of our children is at tremendous risk of not being a productive adult, of having a life that is certainly not what it could be. So it is important that we focus on this and understand how important this is. One in 12 of our young people today attempts suicide. So there is a certain desperation out there.

I would like to now turn to something that Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain said on this floor about 3 years ago, which I think is somewhat germane, that relates to what I have been talking about with our young people, with our divisions in Congress and so on. He said, "As Britain knows, all predominant power seems for a time invincible, but in fact it is transient." So what he was saying is that every great nation for a period of time has assumed that it was going to live forever, that things were not going to change, that it would be preeminent forever, and then eventually realized that this power that they had, this aura of invincibility, all of a sudden was not there anymore. So I think that there is no question as we look at history that what he said is very true.

I would like to just take a quick cursory look at three nations that certainly would have fit that category he was talking about, nations that were invincible at the time. Certainly Rome 2,000 years ago ruled the entire civilized world, appeared to be invincible, but eventually fell from preeminence.

The reasons historians have given that they fell were, number one, a general decline in morality; an increase in corruption and instability in leadership; an increasing public addiction to ever-more-violent public spectacles; an increase in crime and prostitution; and above all, a population that became more self-absorbed, apathetic and unwilling to sacrifice for the common good.

Does that fit any of our parameters here? I don't know, but it certainly is something we need to be aware of and we need to think about to some degree.

Great Britain 150 years ago dominated the world, had a colonial empire that dominated the world from the late 1600s through much of the 1800s, yet this British Empire eventually slowly crumbled. The reasons given by historians are as follows: Number one, they lost the national resolve to maintain their territory. It takes a lot of energy and commitment to maintain far-flung colonies around the world. Next, values that led to ascendancy were eroded. The integrity, the character of the people, somehow was no longer what it once had been. Spiritual underpinnings began to shift. Some the spiritual values were no longer there.

Russia, 20 years ago one of the great nations of the world, one of the two superpowers at that time, in a matter of months disintegrated before our eyes. Alexander Solzhenitzen reflected on this fall when he observed this. He said, "Over a half century ago while I was still a child, I recall a number of older people offered the following explanation for the great disasters that had befallen Russia." Then he quotes. "Men have forgotten God. That is why all of this has happened." That is what he found many people in Russia saying. Marx and Lenin had dismantled Russia's religious heritage, values had fallen, Russia's foundation was broken, and eventually it collapsed like a house of cards with nothing to sustain it.

So if you look at these three nations, which I just picked out randomly, there are really some common themes of historical collapse. Number one, citizens are less willing to sacrifice for other people and for their country; number two, citizens become more self-absorbed, they have a greater desire for the state to take care of them; number three, a weakening of commonly held values; and number four, the decline of spiritual commitment.

I think there are some warnings here, some things we might think about, some things that may be applicable to our country and to this body here.

We currently have the most powerful military, the strongest economy, the most stable government of any nation in the world, and so it is easy at times to think that we are invincible, that this will go on forever. But as Tony Blair stated, "As Britain knows, all predominant power for a time seems invincible, but in fact it is transient."

I think it is our job here in this body and in this country to see to it that it

doesn't become transient, at least not real soon; that we are able to preserve the integrity and identity of our country that has been so important.

In over 36 years of coaching, I witnessed firsthand some trends that were concerning to me. I noticed over that 36 years that the young men who came into the program became, over time, more troubled. They were people who showed more stress. They had less moral clarity as time passed.

When I started coaching in 1962, I think most of the players I dealt with knew that it was wrong to tell a lie. They knew that stealing something was wrong; it was just something that was a given. And yet, as time goes on, we ran into something called postmodernism, the idea that everything is relative, there are no moral absolutes. As a result, if you can get away with something, it may be okay.

That has become a rather pervasive theme in our country and particularly in our institutions of higher education, the idea of postmodernism. As a result, I saw young men who were a little more troubled, a little less stable, and I think there are really two major factors behind this.

First of all, family stability has certainly eroded. I saw that because when I first recruited players and went into their homes in the 1960s and the early 1970s, it was rather rare to see a young person who did not have both parents, and if you saw somebody with only one parent, it was usually because one parent or the other was deceased. But as time went on and as I wrapped up my coaching career in the late 1990s, roughly one-half of the young people that we were dealing with had grown up without both biological parents. One parent or other had simply taken off, a divorce or something had occurred; so that certainly left some tremendous scars.

In 1960, the out-of-wedlock birthrate was 5 percent. Today, it is around 36 percent. About one out of every three children is born outside of marriage. Less than a quarter of families with children under the age of 6 have a parent staying home with them full-time. One-third of all school-age children come home to an empty house for at least part of the week, and the hours between 3 and 6 p.m., of course, are the greatest hours of risk for young children.

Then, the last thing I will mention here, 24 million children in the United States live without their real father. So being fatherless is a huge problem in our country today, and those young people who are fatherless are two to three more times likely to be abused, have emotional behavior problems, abuse drugs and alcohol, commit a crime and so on.

There is a greeting card company that went to a prison on Mother's Day and offered to give free greeting cards to every inmate who would want one to send to his mother. They had almost 100 percent participation. Almost every

inmate of that prison decided that they wanted to send a Mother's Day card to their mother.

They had so much success, the greeting card company came back on Father's Day and they made the same offer. They had practically zero participation.

You say, well, what in the world happened here? The thing was that the great majority, almost all of the men in that prison, did not have a father. Their father had simply abandoned them, probably early in life, and as a result they were not interested at all in sending them a card.

Certainly the family structure has changed in our country, and I think we have to pay attention to that. We have to buttress it as much as we can. We can't legislate a lot of these things, but we can certainly attempt to do something about it.

The second thing that I will address, and this will be the last thing I will talk about, is the fact that the environment that our young people are now growing up in has certainly changed as well. The family, the launching pad, has changed, has become less stable, and the environment into which we are thrusting our young people has certainly become more difficult, has become more challenging, has become more dangerous, and, as a result, we have seen some major changes.

One thing that I was very proud to see this House address yesterday was the matter of underage drinking. This has become a huge problem in our Nation, and we did pass the STOP bill yesterday. I don't know if we will get it done in the Senate or not. I hope we will. It simply made an attempt to do something about the ravages of underage drinking. I will just present a few interesting details regarding underage drinking.

A recent National Academy of Sciences study showed that alcohol kills six-and-a-half times more children than all other drugs combined. So if you look at cocaine, if you look at heroin, marijuana and on and on, and you combine all of those, alcohol kills six-and-a-half times more children, more than 4,000 a year, which is a huge number. It costs the United States \$53 billion annually. There are currently 3 million teenage alcoholics. So it is by far the biggest drug problem we have.

The average age for the first drink of a young person who decides to use alcohol before age 21 is 12.8 years of age. When you start using alcohol that young, that early in your life, it makes a huge difference because of your psychological and your physiological immaturity. A young person who starts drinking before age 15 is five times more likely to become an alcoholic than one who waits until they are 21 years of age.

Anyway, this body has done something about this, not probably enough, but at least it is a good start, and I was proud to see that happen yesterday.

Another drug that is particularly pernicious and is spreading like wild-

fire across the country is methamphetamine. Many places will find that the rates of use of heroin and cocaine are going down rather dramatically, and the reason for that is methamphetamine is moving in.

Methamphetamine is cheaper and methamphetamine is much more addictive, so it is sweeping across the country. It started in California and has slowly moved across, and now there is a pocket up in the north-eastern part of the country where we don't see much of it, but through the Midwest, through the South, through most of the rest of the country, it has become pretty much a tidal wave. So we have been very concerned about this.

We find that in Nebraska roughly 22,000 people, according to a recent report, are addicted in a State of only 1.7 million. The average meth addict will cost society about \$50,000 a year, so in Nebraska it is about a \$1 billion a year problem, and nationally it is huge. It is eating up a huge amount of our money at the present time.

So we did again make some attempt to address that here, the Combat Meth Act was important, and I think maybe the most important part of that bill was that we did something to try to regulate sudafedrine, which absolutely is necessary in order to produce methamphetamine.

There are only about six or seven countries in the world that produce sudafedrine, and so what we did in that bill was, we said those countries that produce sudafedrine and ship it to other countries will need to give the United States invoices of where those shipments of sudafedrine are going, which enables us then to track the sudafedrine to the "superlabs," which are mostly in Mexico; and we think that is the most helpful way we have of getting at some of those superlabs that are shipping about 80 to 90 percent of the methamphetamine into the United States.

These are some things that have been done.

Of course, we realize that we have a huge problem with pornography and some of video games that are affecting our young people and so on. I will not try to outline all of these, but I just want to mention the fact that I believe that it is important that we, as a body, as a Congress, pay attention to what is going on with our young people, because if we don't, if we fail to address those issues, it is a little bit like a football team ignoring something that eventually will catch up with you.

As Tony Blair mentioned, "The long-term well-being of a nation is served well only when you pay attention to the next generation."

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And we have a lot of warning signs out there that we are beginning to slip, that we have not paid adequate attention, that the next generation coming up may not be able to carry the ball, so

to speak. So I hope that that will be a major concern and a major thrust in this body as we move forward.

It has been a pleasure for me to be here for the last 6 years. A lot of great friends, both sides of the aisle. It has been very challenging at times, and I see great potential. I do hope that we will pull together and hope that we will serve the Nation as best we can as time moves forward.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CHANDLER (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business.

Mr. TANNER (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business.

Mr. KUHL of New York (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of personal business.

Mr. HEFLEY (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for the week of November 13 on account of attending the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Quebec.

Mr. GILLMOR (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for the week of November 13 on account of attending the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Quebec.

Mr. BOOZMAN (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for the week of November 13 on account of attending the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Quebec.

Mr. TANCREDO (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for the week of November 13 on account of attending the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Quebec.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. MCCARTHY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SCHIFF, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CARDOZA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. SEKULA GIBBS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BUYER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. NUSSLE, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. OWENS, for 5 minutes, today.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Mrs. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 409. An act to provide for the exchange of land within the Sierra National Forest, California, and for other purposes.

H.R. 860. An act to provide for the conveyance of the reversionary interest of the United States in certain lands to the Clint Independent School District, El Paso County, Texas.

H.R. 1129. An act to authorize the exchange of certain land in the State of Colorado.

H.R. 3085. An act to amend the National Trails System Act to update the feasibility and suitability study originally prepared for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail and provide for the inclusion of new trail segments, land components, and campgrounds associated with that trail, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5842. An act to compromise and settle all claims in the case of Pueblo of Isleta v. United States, to restore, improve, and develop the valuable on-reservation land and natural resources of the Pueblo, and for other purposes.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The SPEAKER announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 435. An act to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate a segment of the Farmington River and Salmon Brook in the State of Connecticut for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes.

S. 819. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to reallocate costs of the Pactola Dam and Reservoir, South Dakota, to reflect increased demands for municipal, industrial, and fish and wildlife purposes.

S. 1131. An act to authorize the exchange of certain Federal land within the State of Idaho, and for other purposes.

S. 1140. An act to designate the State Route 1 Bridge in the State of Delaware as the "Senator William V. Roth, Jr. Bridge".

S. 3880. An act to provide the Department of Justice the necessary authority to apprehend, prosecute, and convict individuals committing animal enterprise terror.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House of today, I move that the House do now adjourn. The motion was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Accordingly, pursuant to the previous order of the House of today, the House stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m. on Friday, November 17, 2006, unless it sooner has received a message from the Senate transmitting its adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 496, in which case the House shall stand adjourned pursuant to that concurrent resolution.

Thereupon (at 1 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.), pursuant to the previous order of the House of today, the House adjourned until 1:30 p.m. on Friday, November 17, 2006, unless it sooner has received a message from the Senate transmitting its adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 496, in which case the House shall stand adjourned pursuant to that concurrent resolution.

[The Foreign Travel Report will be printed in a future edition of House proceedings.]

OATH FOR ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

Under clause 13 of rule XXIII, the following Members executed the oath for access to classified information:

Neil Abercrombie, Gary L. Ackerman, Robert B. Aderholt, W. Todd Akin, Rodney Alexander, Thomas H. Allen, Robert E. Andrews, Joe Baca, Spencer Bachus, Brian Baird, Richard H. Baker, Tammy Baldwin, J. Gresham Barrett, John Barrow, Roscoe G. Bartlett, Joe Barton, Charles F. Bass, Melissa L. Bean, Bob Beauprez, Xavier Becerra, Shelley Berkley, Howard L. Berman, Marion Berry, Judy Biggert, Brian P. Bilbray, Michael Bilirakis, Rob Bishop, Sanford D. Bishop, Jr., Timothy H. Bishop, Marsha Blackburn, Earl Blumenauer, Roy Blunt, Sherwood Boehlert, John A. Boehner, Henry Bonilla, Jo Bonner, Mary Bono, John Boozman, Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Dan Boren, Leonard L. Boswell, Rick Boucher, Charles W. Boustany, Jr., Allen Boyd, Jeb Bradley, Kevin Brady, Robert A. Brady, Corrine Brown, Sherrod Brown, Henry E. Brown, Jr., Ginny Brown-Waite, Michael C. Burgess, Dan Burton, G.K. Butterfield, Steve Buyer, Ken Calvert, Dave Camp, John Campbell, Chris Cannon, Eric Cantor, Shelley Moore Capito, Lois Capps, Michael E. Capuano, Benjamin L. Cardin, Dennis A. Cardoza, Russ Carnahan, Julia Carson, John R. Carter, Ed Case, Michael N. Castle, Steve Chabot, Ben Chandler, Chris Chocola, Donna M. Christensen, Wm. Lacy Clay, Emanuel Cleaver, James E. Clyburn, Howard Coble, Tom Cole, K. Michael Conaway, John Conyers, Jr., Jim Cooper, Jim Costa, Jerry F. Costello, Christopher Cox, Robert E. (Bud) Cramer, Jr., Ander Crenshaw, Joseph Crowley, Barbara Cubin, Henry Cuellar, John Abney Culberson, Elijah E. Cummings, Randy "Duke" Cunningham, Artur Davis, Geoff Davis, Jim Davis, Jo Ann Davis, Lincoln Davis, Tom Davis, Susan A. Davis, Danny K. Davis, Nathan Deal, Peter A. DeFazio, Diana DeGette, William D. Delahunt, Rosa L. DeLauro, Tom DeLay, Charles W. Dent, Lincoln Diaz-Balart, Mario Diaz-Balart, Norman D. Dicks, John D. Dingell, Lloyd Doggett, John T. Doolittle, Michael F. Doyle, Thelma D. Drake, David Dreier, John J. Duncan, Jr., Chet Edwards, Vernon J. Ehlers, Rahm Emanuel, Jo Ann Emerson, Eliot L. Engel, Phil English, Anna G. Eshoo, Bob Etheridge, Lane Evans, Terry Everett, Eni F. H. Faleomavaega, Sam Farr, Chaka Fattah, Tom Feeney, Mike Ferguson, Bob Filner, Michael G. Fitzpatrick, Jeff Flake, Mark Foley, J. Randy Forbes, Harold E. Ford, Jr., Jeff Fortenberry, Luis G. Fortuno, Vito Fossella, Virginia Foxx, Barney Frank, Trent Franks, Rodney P. Frelinghuysen, Elton Gallegly, Scott Garrett, Jim Gerlach, Jim Gibbons, Wayne T. Gilchrest, Paul E. Gillmor, Phil Gingrey, Louie Gohmert, Charles A. Gonzalez, Virgil H. Goode, Jr., Bob Goodlatte, Bart Gordon, Kay Granger, Sam Graves, Al Green, Gene Green, Mark Green, Raul M. Grijalva, Luis V. Gutierrez, Gil Gutknecht, Ralph M. Hall, Jane Harman, Katherine Harris, Melissa A. Hart, J. Dennis Hastert, Doc Hastings, Alcee L. Hastings, Robin Hayes, J. D. Hayworth, Joel Hefley, Jeb Hensarling, Wally Herger, Stephanie Herseth, Brian Higgins, Maurice D. Hinchey, Ruben Hinojosa, David L. Hobson, Peter Hoekstra, Tim Holden, Rush D. Holt, Michael M. Honda, Darlene Hooley, John N. Hostettler, Steny H. Hoyer, Kenny C. Hulshof, Duncan Hunter, Henry J. Hyde,

Bob Inglis, Jay Inslee, Steve Israel, Darrell E. Issa, Ernest J. Istook, Jr., Jesse L. Jackson, Jr., Sheila Jackson-Lee, William J. Jefferson, William L. Jenkins, Bobby Jindal, Sam Johnson, Eddie Bernice Johnson, Nancy L. Johnson, Timothy V. Johnson, Walter B. Jones, Stephanie Tubbs Jones, Paul E. Kanjorski, Marcy Kaptur, Ric Keller, Sue W. Kelly, Patrick J. Kennedy, Mark R. Kennedy, Dale E. Kildee, Carolyn C. Kilpatrick, Ron Kind, Steve King, Peter T. King, Jack Kingston, Mark Steven Kirk, John Kline, Joe Knollenberg, Jim Kolbe, John R. "Randy" Kuhl, Jr., Ray LaHood, James R. Langevin, Tom Lantos, Rick Larsen, John B. Larson, Tom Latham, Steven C. LaTourette, James A. Leach, Barbara Lee, Sander M. Levin, Jerry Lewis, John Lewis, Ron Lewis, John Linder, Daniel Lipinski, Frank A. LoBiondo, Zoe Lofgren, Nita M. Lowey, Frank D. Lucas, Daniel E. Lungren, Stephen F. Lynch, Connie Mack, Carolyn B. Maloney, Donald A. Manzullo, Kenny Marchant, Edward J. Markey, Jim Marshall, Jim Matheson, Doris O. Matsui, Carolyn McCarthy, Michael T. McCaul, Betty McCollum, Thaddeus G. McCotter, Jim McCrery, James P. McGovern, Patrick T. McHenry, John M. McHugh, Mike McIntyre, Howard P. "Buck" McKeon, Cynthia McKinney, Cathy McMorris, Michael R. McNulty, Martin T. Meehan, Kendrick B. Meek, Gregory W. Meeks, Charlie Melancon, Robert Menendez, John L. Mica, Michael H. Michaud, Juanita Millender-McDonald, Brad Miller, Jeff Miller, Gary G. Miller, Candice S. Miller, Alan B. Mollohan, Dennis Moore, Gwen Moore, Jerry Moran, James P. Moran, Tim Murphy, John P. Murtha, Marilyn N. Musgrave, Sue Wilkins Myrick, Jerrold Nadler, Grace F. Napolitano, Richard E. Neal, Randy Neugebauer, Robert W. Ney, Anne M. Northup, Eleanor Holmes Norton, Charlie Norwood, Devin Nunes, Jim Nussle, James L. Oberstar, David R. Obey, John W. Oliver, Solomon P. Ortiz, Tom Osborne, C. L. "Butch" Otter, Major R. Owens, Michael G. Oxley, Frank Pallone, Jr., Bill Pascrell, Jr., Ed Pastor, Ron Paul, Donald M. Payne, Stevan Pearce, Nancy Pelosi, Mike Pence, Collin C. Peterson, John E. Peterson, Thomas E. Petri, Charles W. "Chip" Pickering, Joseph R. Pitts, Todd Russell Platts, Ted Poe, Richard W. Pombo, Earl Pomeroy, Jon C. Porter, Rob Portman, Tom Price, David E. Price, Deborah Pryce, Adam H. Putnam, George Radanovich, Nick J. Rahall, II, Jim Ramstad, Charles B. Rangel, Ralph Regula, Dennis R. Rehberg, David G. Reichert, Rick Renzi, Silvestre Reyes, Thomas M. Reynolds, Harold Rogers, Mike Rogers, Mike Rogers, Dana Rohrabacher, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Mike Ross, Steven R. Rothman, Lucille Roybal-Allard, Edward R. Royce, C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger, Bobby L. Rush, Paul Ryan, Tim Ryan, Jim Ryun, Martin Olav Sabo, John T. Salazar, Loretta Sanchez, Linda T. Sanchez, Bernard Sanders, Jim Saxton, Janice D. Schakowsky, Adam B. Schiff, Jean Schmidt, Allyson Y. Schwartz, John J. H. "Joe" Schwarz, David Scott, Robert C. Scott, Shelley Sekula Gibbs, F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Jose E. Serrano, Pete Sessions, John B. Shadegg, E. Clay Shaw, Jr., Christopher Shays, Brad Sherman, Don Sherwood, John Shimkus, Bill Shuster, Rob Simmons, Michael K. Simpson, Albio Sires, Ike Skelton, Louise McIntosh Slaughter, Adam Smith, Christopher H. Smith, Lamar S. Smith, Vic Snyder, Michael E. Sodrel, Hilda L. Solis, Mark E. Souder, John M. Spratt, Jr., Cliff Stearns, Ted Strickland, Bart Stupak, John Sullivan, John E. Sweeney, Thomas G. Tancredo, John S. Tanner, Ellen O. Tauscher, Gene Taylor, Charles H. Taylor, Lee Terry, William M. Thomas, Mike Thompson, Bennie G. Thompson, Mac Thornberry, Todd Tiahrt, Patrick J. Tiberi, John

F. Tierney, Edolphus Towns, Michael R. Turner, Mark Udall, Tom Udall, Fred Upton, Chris Van Hollen, Nydia M. Velazquez, Peter J. Visclosky, Greg Walden, James T. Walsh, Zach Wamp, Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Maxine Waters, Diane E. Watson, Melvin L. Watt, Henry A. Waxman, Anthony D. Weiner, Curt Weldon, Dave Weldon, Jerry Weller, Lynn A. Westmoreland, Robert Wexler, Ed Whitfield, Roger F. Wicker, Heather Wilson, Joe Wilson, Frank R. Wolf, Lynn C. Woolsey, David Wu, Albert Russell Wynn, Don Young, C. W. Bill Young.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

10014. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's Annual Report on Federal Government Energy Management and Conservation Programs during Fiscal Year 2005, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 6361(c); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10015. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's FY 2005 annual financial report to Congress required by the Prescription Drug User Fee Act of 1992 (PDUFA), pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 379g note; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10016. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's report on the activities to improve coordination and communication with respect to the implementation of E-911 services, pursuant to Public Law 108-494, section 104; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10017. A letter from the Director, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, Department of Energy, transmitting a letter concerning the annual report on the activities and expenditures of the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10018. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the FY 2005 financial report for the Animal Drug User Fee Act (ADUFA), enacted on November 18, 2003 (Pub. L. 108-199); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10019. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's report on the Developmental Disabilities Programs for Fiscal Years 2003-2004, pursuant to Public Law 99-319, section 105(a)(7); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10020. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting a copy of the Agency's report entitled, "Environmental Health and Safety in the Arts: A Guide for K-12 Schools, Colleges and Artisans"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10021. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the FY 2005 Superfund Five-Year Review Report to Congress, in accordance with the requirements in Section 121(c) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10022. A letter from the Managing Director, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting a report on Auction Expenditures for FY 2005, pursuant to the Balanced Budget

Act of 1997, as codified in Section 309(j)(8)(B) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10023. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting Pursuant to Section 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Section 1(f) of Executive Order 11958, Transmittal No. 21-06 informing of an intent to sign the Joint Strike Fighter Production, Sustainment, and Follow-on Development Memorandum of Understanding between Australia, Canada, Denmark, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2767(f); to the Committee on International Relations.

10024. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 of November 14, 1979, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); to the Committee on International Relations.

10025. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification for FY 2006 that no United Nations organization or United Nations affiliated agency grants and official status, accreditation, or recognition to any organization which promotes, condones, or seeks the legalization of pedophilia, or which includes as a subsidiary or member any such organization, pursuant to Public Law 103-236, section 565(b) (108 Stat. 845); to the Committee on International Relations.

10026. A letter from the Acting Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting pursuant to Section 62(a) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), notification concerning the Department of the Air Force's proposed lease of defense articles to the Government of Greece (Transmittal No. 09-06); to the Committee on International Relations.

10027. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Notification of the intention to exercise the authority under Section 552(c)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, to authorize the drawdown of Department of Defense services for Indonesia in support of the United Nations peacekeeping operations in Lebanon; to the Committee on International Relations.

10028. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's report covering current military, diplomatic, political, and economic measures that are being or have been undertaken to complete out mission in Iraq successfully, pursuant to Public Law 109-163, section 1227; to the Committee on International Relations.

10029. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Notification of the intention to waive the prohibition on the use of FY 2006 Economic Support Funds provided with respect to Bolivia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Ecuador, Kenya, Mali, Mexico, Namibia, Niger, Paraguay, Samoa, South Africa, and Tanzania, pursuant to Public Law 109-102, section 574(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

10030. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a copy of Presidential Determination No. 2006-27, Waiving Prohibition on United States Military Assistance with Respect to Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Croatia, Ecuador, Kenya, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Namibia, Niger, Paraguay, Peru, Samoa, Serbia, South Africa, St. Vin-

cent & the Grenadines, Tanzania, Trinidad & Tobago, and Uruguay, pursuant to Public Law 107-206, section 2007; to the Committee on International Relations.

10031. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the 2005 Annual Report on the United States Participation in the United Nations, pursuant to Public Law 79-264, section 4(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

10032. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the quarterly report of obligations and outlays of FY 2004, FY 2005 and FY 2006 funds under the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief through March 31, 2006 pursuant to Division D, Pub. L. 108-199; to the Committee on International Relations.

10033. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting consistent with the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-243), the Authorization for the Use of Force Against Iraq Resolution (Pub. L. 102-1), and in order to keep the Congress fully informed, a report prepared by the Department of State for the August 15, 2006 — October 15, 2006 reporting period including matters relating to post-liberation Iraq under Section 7 of the Iraq Liberation Act of 1998 (Pub. L. 105-338); to the Committee on International Relations.

10034. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report concerning methods employed by the Government of Cuba to comply with the United States-Cuba September 1994 "Joint Communiqué" and the treatment by the Government of Cuba of persons returned to Cuba in accordance with the United States-Cuba May 1995 "Joint Statement," together known as the Migration Accords, pursuant to Public Law 105-277, section 2245; to the Committee on International Relations.

10035. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Sudan that was declared in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997, as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003; to the Committee on International Relations.

10036. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia that was declared in Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995; to the Committee on International Relations.

10037. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting certification that the export to the People's Republic of China of the specified items is not detrimental to the United States space launch industry, and that the material and equipment, including any indirect technical benefit that could be derived from such exports, will not measurably improve the missile or space launch capabilities of the People's Republic of China, pursuant to Public Law 105-261, section 1512; (H. Doc. No. 109-151); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

10038. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting certification that the export to the People's Republic of China of the specified items is not detrimental to the United States space launch

industry, and that the material and equipment, including any indirect technical benefit that could be derived from such exports, will not measurably improve the missile or space launch capabilities of the People's Republic of China, pursuant to Public Law 105-261, section 1512; (H. Doc. No. 109-152); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

10039. A letter from the Secretary, Commission of Fine Arts, transmitting the Commission's Strategic Plan for FY 2006 through 2011; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10040. A letter from the Associate Director for Human Resources, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia, transmitting the D.C. Pretrial Services Agency's report on the use of the Category Rating System for the period October 2004 through September 2005 and October 2005 through September 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3319(d); to the Committee on Government Reform.

10041. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management, Competitive Sourcing Official, Department of Labor, transmitting pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Activities Inventory Reform (FAIR) Act of 1998 (Pub. L. 105-270), the Department's Inventory of Inherently Governmental Activities and Inventory of Commercial Activities for 2005; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10042. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2006 through 2011; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10043. A letter from the Chair, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting the Commission's Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2007 through 2012, pursuant to Public Law 103-62; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10044. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Housing Finance Board, transmitting pursuant to the requirements of Sections 3 and 4 of the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 and Part 6 of Circular A-11 of the United States Office of Management and Budget, the Board's strategic plan for FY 2007 through 2012 and its Annual Performance Budget for fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10045. A letter from the Chairman, Holocaust Memorial Museum, transmitting the Museum's FY 2006 Report on Audit and Investigative Activities in accordance with the Inspector General Act of 1978; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10046. A letter from the Chairman, International Trade Commission, transmitting the sixth edition of the United States International Trade Commission's Strategic Plan, which covers the period from fiscal year 2006 through fiscal year 2011, pursuant to Public Law 103-62; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10047. A letter from the Chairman, Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting the Board's report entitled, "Reforming Federal Hiring: Beyond Faster and Cheaper," pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 1204(a)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform.

10048. A letter from the Chairman, National Endowment for the Humanities, transmitting the Endowment's Strategic Plans for Fiscal Years 2007 through 2012, as required by the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10049. A letter from the Director, National Gallery of Art, transmitting an FY 2006 annual report on audit and investigative coverage required by the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, and the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 5

U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

10050. A letter from the Inspector General, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting a copy of the FY 2006 Commercial and Inherently Governmental Activities Inventories for the Commission as required by the Federal Activities Inventory Reform Act of 1998 and guidance issued by the Office of Management and Budget; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10051. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting a report entitled "Statistical Programs of the United States Government: Fiscal Year 2007," pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 3504(e)(2); to the Committee on Government Reform.

10052. A letter from the Executive Director, Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation, transmitting the FY 2006 annual report under the Federal Managers' Fiscal Integrity Act (FMFIA) of 1982, and the Inspector General Act of 1988; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10053. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting a legislative proposal entitled, "To make improvements to the Civil Service Retirement System and the Federal Employees' Retirement System, and for other purposes"; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10054. A letter from the Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a copy of the report entitled, "Audit of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4C for Fiscal Years 2004 through 2006, as of March 31, 2006"; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10055. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the 2005 annual report on the activities and operations of the Public Integrity Section, Criminal Division, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 529; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

10056. A letter from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting the Conference's opposition to H.R. 5219, "the Judicial Transparency and Ethics Enhancement Act of 2006"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

10057. A letter from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting a report on compliance within the time limitations established for deciding habeas corpus death penalty petitions under Title I of the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 2266(b) and (c); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

10058. A letter from the Staff Director, Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting notification that the Commission recently appointed members to the Illinois Advisory Committee; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

10059. A letter from the Staff Director, Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting notification that the Commission recently appointed members to the Georgia advisory committee; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

10060. A letter from the Staff Director, Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting notification that the Commission recently appointed members to the Utah Advisory Committee; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

10061. A letter from the Acting Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting a copy of draft legislation to amend the federal crime restitution statutes to allow victims of identity theft to recover for the value of the time they spend attempting to remediate the harm caused by a criminal defendant; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

10062. A letter from the Acting Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice,

transmitting the Department's report describing the organization and resources of the Department with respect to privacy and related information management functions, pursuant to Public Law 109-162, section 1174; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

10063. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's report to Congress for 2004 on Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Services and Programs, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 10420(d); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

10064. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting as required by Section 417(b) of the USA Patriot Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-56), the annual report on the status of the implementation of machine-readable passports (MRPs) in countries participating in the Visa Waiver Program (VWP); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

10065. A letter from the Staff Director, United States Sentencing Commission, transmitting a technical correction in Amendment 10 of the document entitled, "Amendments to the Sentencing Guidelines"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

10066. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Civil Works, Department of the Army, transmitting the Department's eighth report of projects, or separable elements of projects, which have been authorized, but for which no funds have been obligated for planning, design or construction during the preceding seven full fiscal years, pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 579a; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

10067. A letter from the Acting Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS), 2007-2011, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. app. 2203(b)(1); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

10068. A letter from the Acting Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's report on the Tribal-State Road Maintenance Agreements, pursuant to Public Law 109-59, section 1119(k); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

10069. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's summary and detailed breakdown of the disability-related complaints that U.S. and foreign passenger carriers operating to and from the U.S. received during the 2005 calendar year, pursuant to section 707 of the Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

10070. A letter from the Administrator, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting notification of compliance with FAA safety standards and fulfillment of the requirement of Section 7 of the Wright Amendment Reform Act of 2006, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 40101; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

10071. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Civil Works, Department of the Army, transmitting the Department's report on the Mississippi River Headwaters Reservoirs, pursuant to Public Law 100-676, section 21; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

10072. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's report entitled, "Impact of Increased Financial Assistance to Medicare Advantage Plans"; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

10073. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a copy of Presidential Determination No. 2007-2, pursuant to Section 534(d) of the Foreign Operations, Export

Financing and Related Program Appropriations Act of 2006, Pub. L. 109-102; jointly to the Committees on International Relations and Appropriations.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. PALLONE (for himself, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, and Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN):

H.R. 6325. A bill to provide a new effective date for the applicability of certain provisions of law to Public Law 105-331; to the Committee on Financial Services. Considered and passed.

By Mr. TIBERI:

H.R. 6326. A bill to clarify the provision of nutrition services to older Americans; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce. Considered and passed.

By Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California (for herself and Ms. ESHOO):

H.R. 6327. A bill to make certain management reforms to the Free File program of the Internal Revenue Service; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself and Mr. LEWIS of Georgia):

H.R. 6328. A bill to establish a congressional Commission on the Abolition of Modern-Day Slavery; to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CARSON (for herself, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. RUSH, Mr. NADLER, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. OWENS, Mr. WYNN, and Mr. JEFFERSON):

H.R. 6329. A bill to ensure prompt access to supplemental security income, social security disability, and medicaid benefits for persons released from certain public institutions; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. CUBIN:

H.R. 6330. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 152 North 5th Street in Laramie, Wyoming, as the "Gale W. McGee Post Office"; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. EVERETT (for himself, Mr. BONNER, and Mr. ROGERS of Alabama):

H.R. 6331. A bill to amend the environmental quality incentives program of the Department of Agriculture to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to provide assistance to active agricultural producers for the construction of reservoirs as part of their agricultural operations for the storage of water, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. KOLBE (for himself, Ms. ESHOO, and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California):

H.R. 6332. A bill to establish the Sandra Day O'Connor Center on Constitutional Law at Stanford Law School and to establish the William H. Rehnquist Center on Constitutional Structures of Government at the University of Arizona James E. Rogers School of Law; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subse-

quently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PEARCE:

H.R. 6333. A bill to authorize the presentation of flags at the funerals of civilian Federal employees engaged in the support of military operations who have died in combat zones in the course of their duties; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. PETRI (for himself and Ms. MATSUI):

H.R. 6334. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to ensure that participants in the Troops to Teachers program may teach at a range of eligible schools; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STUPAK:

H.R. 6335. A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds for official travel after Election Day of members of Congress who will not serve as members during the next Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. STUPAK:

H.R. 6336. A bill to amend title 4, United States Code, with respect to the flying of the National flag at half-staff pursuant to the order of a Governor of a State, territory, or possession; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 6337. A bill to provide equitable treatment for the people of the Village Corporation established for the Native Village of Saxman, Alaska, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. BOEHNER:

H.J. Res. 101. A joint resolution appointing the day for the convening of the first session of the One Hundred Tenth Congress; considered and passed.

By Mr. THOMAS:

H. Con. Res. 495. Concurrent resolution authorizing the printing as a House document of "United States House of Representatives, The Committee on Ways and Means: A History, 1789-2006"; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. BOEHNER:

H. Con. Res. 496. Concurrent resolution providing for an adjournment or recess of the two Houses; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BOEHNER:

H. Res. 1083. A resolution electing a certain Member to a certain standing committee of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania (for himself, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. PLATTS, Ms. CARSON, Mr. OWENS, Mr. DENT, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. LEE, Mr. ROSS, Mr. NADLER, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. FILNER, Mr. BARROW, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. COSTA, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. WU, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. WATSON, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. BERRY, Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania, Mr. HOLDEN, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. STUPAK, and Mr. ANDREWS):

H. Res. 1084. A resolution to honor the contributions and life of Edward R. Bradley; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. BUYER:

H. Res. 1085. A resolution honoring the service and accomplishments of Major General Joseph G. Webb, Jr., United States Army; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD (for herself and Mrs. BONO):

H. Res. 1086. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of "National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week"; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. PENCE (for himself, Mr. LANTOS, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. ISSA, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. LEACH, Mr. MACK, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. POE, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Ms. ROSLEHTINEN, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. TANCREDO, Ms. WATSON, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. EVANS, Mr. KIRK, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. SHAYS, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ):

H. Res. 1087. A resolution designating Room H-139 of the Capitol as the "Henry J. Hyde Room"; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 65: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, and Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.

H.R. 215: Ms. HERSETH.

H.R. 450: Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 772: Ms. FOXX.

H.R. 808: Mr. SHUSTER and Mr. EVERETT.

H.R. 964: Mr. MEEHAN.

H.R. 1384: Mr. SWEENEY.

H.R. 1632: Mr. DELAHUNT.

H.R. 2014: Mr. RAHALD.

H.R. 2231: Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. WAMP, and Mr. TANNER.

H.R. 2895: Mrs. KELLY.

H.R. 3248: Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 3307: Mr. ANDREWS.

H.R. 3352: Mr. HAYES.

H.R. 3569: Mr. BOUCHER.

H.R. 3854: Mr. MEEKS of New York.

H.R. 4597: Mr. CAMPBELL of California, Mr. LAHOOD, and Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 4727: Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. MICHAUD, and Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 4736: Mr. ANDREWS.

H.R. 4904: Mr. TOWNS.

H.R. 5058: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

H.R. 5147: Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 5161: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 5198: Mr. MOORE of Kansas.

H.R. 5363: Mr. HINOJOSA, Mrs. KELLY, and Mr. EVANS.

H.R. 5369: Mr. CARTER and Ms. PRYCE of Ohio.

H.R. 5465: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 5704: Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland.

H.R. 5755: Mr. SIMPSON.

H.R. 5790: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

H.R. 5791: Mr. GOODE.

H.R. 5795: Mr. WEXLER and Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 5806: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.

H.R. 5834: Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, and Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan.

H.R. 5850: Mr. PAYNE and Mr. BISHOP of New York.

- H.R. 5858: Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. LEACH, and Mr. KUCINICH.
 H.R. 5866: Ms. SEKULA GIBBS.
 H.R. 5896: Mr. GUTIERREZ.
 H.R. 5916: Mr. CUMMINGS and Ms. BERKLEY.
 H.R. 6038: Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 6044: Mr. GUTIERREZ.
 H.R. 6067: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.
 H.R. 6093: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.
 H.R. 6117: Mr. BERRY, Mr. WYNN, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. BACHUS.
 H.R. 6118: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia and Mr. RAMSTAD.
 H.R. 6130: Mr. BONNER.
 H.R. 6132: Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. GOHMERT, and Mr. CAMPbell of California.
- H.R. 6175: Mr. TOWNS.
 H.R. 6216: Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. MEEHAN, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
 H.R. 6283: Mr. GOODE and Mr. TANCREDO.
 H.R. 6309: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. STARK, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.
 H.R. 6318: Mr. FARR and Mr. MCGOVERN.
 H. Con. Res. 129: Mr. SAXTON.
 H. Con. Res. 388: Ms. ESHOO and Ms. WATSON.
 H. Con. Res. 457: Mr. BAIRD.
 H. Res. 733: Mr. HOLT, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, and Mr. MEEHAN.
 H. Res. 787: Mr. WAXMAN and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
- H. Res. 962: Ms. WATSON.
 H. Res. 1063: Mr. ROTHMAN.
 H. Res. 1080: Mr. WEINER, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, and Mr. SHAYS.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS—
 ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

The following Members added their names to the following discharge petitions:

Petition 14 by Mr. FILNER on House Resolution 917: Walter B. Jones.

Petition 15 by Mr. DOGGETT on House Resolution 987: Ron Paul and Ted Poe.